

## Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) Website: [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) Tel: 582-7800 Saturday, January 22, 2011

### Martin Luther King Jr.'s daughter won't lead SCLC



**FILE** - In this Aug. 3, 2010 file photo, Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., speaks at a news conference in Atlanta. King said Friday, Jan. 21, 2011, that she will not assume the presidency of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the civil rights group co-founded by her father more than 50 years ago.

(AP Photo/John Bazemore, File)

By ERRIN HAINES,  
Associated Press

ATLANTA — For more than a year, the daughter of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. put off taking her oath as president of the landmark civil rights group co-founded by her father — and now she doesn't want the job at all. The Rev. Bernice King's decision to abandon the Southern Christian Leadership Conference comes at the worst possible time for the once-proud organization, which has struggled to stay relevant as it split into two factions, had its finances scrutinized and saw its former chairman indicted last week on theft charges.

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### TUNISIA UNREST

A Tunisian protester grabs hold of a soldier's leg for safety as shots are fired in the air in front of the headquarters of the Constitutional Democratic Rally (RCD) party of ousted president Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali during a demonstration, in downtown Tunis January 20, 2011. REUTERS/Zohra Bensemra

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### A month into winter, Easterners have had enough



The sun begins to break through the clouds as Anesti Karathanasis works to shovel snow from the latest storm off the roof of his restaurant, Friday, Jan. 21, 2011 in Concord, N.H.

(AP Photo/Jim Cole)

By STEPHANIE REITZ,  
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — In Rhode Island, a mayor tells parents

of snowbound schoolchildren to “hang in there.” Atlanta has blown nearly all the money it set aside to clear the streets. In Connecticut, they're literally praying for winter to end. And at travel agencies, the phones are ringing with callers pining for tropical vacations — when the skies clear up enough to fly out, that is.

Just one month into winter, major cities up and down the East Coast have already gotten clobbered with more snow than they usually get all season, a one-storm-after-another barrage that is eating up snow-removal budgets and forcing schools to close. And officially, winter still has two months left.

A new half-foot of snow tested the patience of residents in the Hartford area Friday, complicating a morning commute already made arduous by mountainous snowbanks that have not melted since a record-setting snowfall last week. Forecasters are calling for below-zero temperatures in New England over the weekend, followed perhaps by another big snowstorm along the East Coast, maybe even a blizzard.

“I'm spending a lot of time praying for spring,” said Mark Boughton, mayor of Danbury, Conn., where back-to-back storms have been so bruising that crews haven't even had a chance to take down Christmas lights on Main Street.

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**FILE** - In this Aug. 3, 2010 file photo, Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., speaks at a news conference in Atlanta. King said Friday, Jan. 21, 2011, that she will not assume the presidency of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the civil rights group co-founded by her father more than 50 years ago.

(AP Photo/John Bazemore, File)

#### BERNICE KING

*Continued from front Page*

The SCLC, which led the movement to end segregation in public facilities and open access to the ballot box for millions of black Americans, has fallen so far that former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young said he told Bernice King she had better

things to do with her time.

"We should've closed it down years ago," Young, who worked alongside Martin Luther King Jr., said Friday after King's announcement. "I saw this as a lost cause a long time ago."

When King became the first woman elected SCLC president in 2009, she had vowed to reinvigorate the organization by expanding the group's reach to more women and a younger generation.

Soon after, the SCLC's chairman and treasurer were accused of financial mismanagement, and squabbling among the group's leaders landed the splintered factions in a courtroom. She remained largely silent as the group's troubles escalated over the past 16 months.

King told The Associated Press that in the end, she and the group's leaders didn't agree on how to move forward. "In light of that, and attempts on several occasions to try to reach out and dialogue, this is where I've landed," she said. "Essentially, I knew that I was not going to be merely a

figurehead, so I had to make a critical decision. I look forward to continuing the legacies of my parents and establishing my own legacy." Although she called the SCLC's recent troubles unfortunate, King stopped short of saying the SCLC should disband.

"They have chapters around the nation who hold the name SCLC and they are doing different kinds of work in their communities," King said. "They have an opportunity ... to decide and redefine how they want to be projected in the public."

King said she notified board leaders of her decision Thursday. Now, she said she is focusing on other endeavors. This week, King launched a 100 Days of Nonviolence campaign at the Coretta Scott King Academy, named for her mother. The initiative is in response to the shootings in Tucson, Ariz., which claimed six lives and left Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords seriously wounded. She also plans to republish her mother's book, "My Life with

Martin Luther King Jr.," and release the King matriarch's never-before published autobiography.

Young said Bernice King's departure from the organization was "wonderful." "I tried to get Bernice to see when she wanted to revive it that it wasn't worth wasting her talents on, that we needed to let it go," Young said. "That doesn't mean that there's not work to be done."

In the span of roughly a decade, the SCLC under Martin Luther King Jr.'s leadership fought for equality and was the moral voice that spoke out against poverty, racism and war.

"It did its work well," Young said. "But it was never any law that said we all had to stay together for the rest of our lives. I don't believe in keeping organizations alive just for the sake of the name." SCLC Chairwoman Sylvia Tucker said she was stunned by King's decision.

"We have to continue to move forward, because there's such a need out there," Tucker said. "Having a president doesn't determine what our mission is,

to really take care of the least of these."

Tucker said she was not sure when a new president might be elected.

Bernice King's brother, Martin Luther King III, led the group from 1998 to 2003.

At a press conference after her election, Bernice King said she was eager to rejuvenate the group.

But within weeks of her election, the SCLC was looking into allegations that its chairman and treasurer had mismanaged the organization's funds, throwing its board of directors into chaos as members chose sides. By the spring, the dispute over who controlled the SCLC was headed to court. The group had split into two factions, both claiming to be in charge and making decisions on behalf of the entire organization.

Bernice King led a prayer for unity within the group in August, calling for an end to the hard feelings. In September, a judge ruled that the directors siding with King were the group's legitimate leaders. □

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## EASTERNERS

### Continued from Front Page

More than 55 inches of snow has fallen this season on Hartford, which averages 46 inches in an entire winter. New York, which generally sees about 21 inches per winter, has gotten more than 36. Boston has 50 inches so far, compared with the usual 41.5-inch seasonal total.

Atlanta, which had its first white Christmas in decades, is reeling from about 6 inches so far this season, compared with the usual 0.3 inches for the whole winter.

The culprit is an unpredictable phenomenon called the North Atlantic Oscillation, an interaction of subtropical highs and polar lows that controls the flow of air along the East Coast, said Art DeGaetano, a Cornell University professor who directs the school's climate center. The colder air turns precipitation that would normally fall as rain into snow — even in the South.

Georgia officials think their \$10 million reserve fund for emergencies is probably close to depleted.

Fannin County, in northern Georgia, has lost nine school days and was foiled in a controversial attempt to keep up by holding classes on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"It's been one heck of a winter," said School Superintendent Mark Henson. The storms have delayed or canceled countless flights at airports throughout the region, most famously during the post-Christmas blizzard in the New York area, where thousands of holiday travelers were stranded for days and the mayor faced a political crisis because of slow cleanup.

The nation's largest city burned through its entire snow removal budget of nearly \$40

million on that storm, the season's first. It also came on a Sunday, meaning millions of dollars in overtime paid to city workers.

The city has had three more snowfalls since then, and Mayor Michael Bloomberg has dismissed questions about how it will pay for further cleanup. Streets are cleared first, he says, and the city figures out afterward where it can shift money.

In Wethersfield, Conn., the phone at Wethersfield Travel rings steadily with stranded travelers seeking help — and with new customers seeking a sunny respite.

"We're hearing from a lot of people who are sick of the snow and say they want to get away fast to somewhere warm," company owner Martha Kirsche said.

The season started out with little hint of what was to come. The National Weather Service's official long-range winter forecast back in October amounted to a flip of the coin: The Northeast and Mid-Atlantic had equal chances of being snowier and colder than normal, and warmer and drier than normal. The folks at the New Hampshire-based Old Farmer's Almanac and the Maine-based Farmers' Almanac didn't fare much better, the first predicting colder but less snowy weather for the eastern half of the U.S. and the latter forecasting colder weather and average snowfall.

"I got the cold part right," said Peter Geiger, editor of the Farmers' Almanac.

It's true that temperatures in much of the East have been 2 to 4 degrees below normal in December and January, DeGaetano said. In Washington, the temperature



was 6 to 8 degrees colder than average in December and 2 to 3 degrees colder in January. Still, forecasters say it is too soon to call this winter record-breaking.

"We've got a long way to go," said David Stark, a meteorologist with the National Service in Upton, N.Y., noting that New York City's 36 inches is a far cry from the record 75.6 inches that fell in 1995-96.


In Buffalo, N.Y., which gets about 93 inches of snow each season, residents yawn at suggestions that this winter is especially harsh. The lakeside city had received about 56 inches by Friday, typical for this time of year.

Louisiana native Joe Gardner, 39, started trolling Craigslist ads for a deal on a snowblower once he realized what he faced as a recent transplant to Burlington, Mass.

"This foot and a half every other day is getting kind of old," Gardner said Friday. "I had always heard how bad it is, but this is beyond what I expected."

In Providence, R.I., the city called off school Friday, the third snow day of the academic year.

Mayor Angel Taveras tweeted a sympathetic message to his constituents: "I know it's hard for parents. Hang in there." □



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# Obama's daughter, Sasha, practices Chinese with Hu



WASHINGTON — Talk about a high level language exchange.

President Barack Obama's nine-year-old daughter, Sasha, wanted to test her developing Chinese skills this week while Hu Jintao was in town.

Just whom did she want to practice them with?

The Chinese president himself, according to a White House official who recounted the story on Thursday after a formal state dinner the previous night.

"The president pointed out

last night at the state dinner that his daughter, Sasha, is a very young girl but her class is studying Chinese," Ben Rhodes, a White House deputy national security adviser, told a video conference with Chinese bloggers.

"She's under 10 years old and they're studying Chinese, and she wanted to have the chance to practice her Chinese with President Hu."

Sasha attended Hu's welcoming ceremony on the White House lawn on Wednesday morning with

friends and could be seen waving a Chinese flag excitedly as her father and Hu walked around the grounds.

The two presidents paused to visit when they reached the nine-year-old and her friends behind the rope line.

"Not every (child) has the opportunity to try out their first phrases of Chinese with the president of China, but she had that chance," Rhodes said.

He said the anecdote illustrated Americans' desire to get to know China better with more people studying the country and doing business there. □

## Victim's family sues Schwarzenegger over commuting sentence

LOS ANGELES — The parents of a college student stabbed to death 2 1/2 years ago sued former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Thursday over his decision to reduce the prison term of a politically-connected assailant convicted in the slaying.

Some legal experts said the lawsuit has little chance of success because California governors historically have enjoyed wide latitude under the law to commute sentences of convicted criminals.

Esteban Nunez, the son of former California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, was sentenced to 16 years in prison after pleading guilty to voluntary manslaughter and assault with a deadly weapon for his role in an October 2008 drunken brawl near San Diego State University that led to the fatal stabbing of Luis Santos, a 22 year-old student.

Schwarzenegger, a Republican, shortened the sentence to seven years in one of his last acts as governor on January 2.

Santos' parents, Fred and Kathy, are seeking through their lawsuit filed in Sacramento to have a California court overturn Schwarzenegger's commutation and force Esteban Nunez to serve his full sentence.

"They realize it could be a long battle testing new waters, but they're definitely ready to go the whole distance," Nina Salarno Ashford, a lawyer for the Santos family, told Reuters.

Daniel Ketchell, an aide to the former governor, declined to comment on the lawsuit.

Esteban Nunez was 19 when he and his friends, angry at having been turned away from a fraternity party, attacked Santos on the street. He later admitted to stabbing one of Santos' companions in the stomach. That person survived.

Fabian Nunez is a prominent Los Angeles Democrat whose six years as a state legislator included four years as Assembly speaker. A political ally with Schwarzenegger on a number of issues, he left office in late 2008.

In commuting his sentence, Schwarzenegger cited the fact that Esteban Nunez had no criminal record before the fight, and that his co-defendant, Ryan Jett, who received the same 16-year sentence, had inflicted the fatal wound to Santos, and had prior felony convictions. Jett pleaded guilty to the same charges as Nunez. Santos' parents have complained that Schwarzenegger never consulted with them before announcing the commutation. Ashford said she could

gain leverage in the lawsuit against Schwarzenegger from a change to the California Constitution from a 2008 voter-approved ballot measure, known as Marsy's Law, that gave increased power to crime victims.

"We're not saying that (Schwarzenegger) doesn't have the power to commute a sentence, but he does not have the power to violate the Constitution and ... there were mandated guidelines that he needed to follow," Ashford said.

Among those are the expectation that the victim's family will be consulted before making a decision to release a convict, according to the lawsuit.

Laurie Levenson, a professor at Loyola Law School, said that she was doubts the Santos family will prevail.

"It certainly would be groundbreaking," she said. "It's certainly an uphill battle." She added Marsy's Law is light on enforcement mechanisms for contesting commutations and other gubernatorial actions.

Schwarzenegger, capitalizing on his popularity as a Hollywood action hero, was elected governor in 2003. Term limits prevented him from seeking reelection in 2010, and he was succeeded this month by Democrat Jerry Brown. □



## Give Your Kid Some Credit

My daughter turned 7 last weekend, and while she's still happily working her way through the Easy-Bake Oven, craft kits, and American Girl accessories, I'm already planning for her next birthday. Her big gift? A credit card.

Well, sort of. Most credit card issuers won't issue a card to a child under 13 (and only with an adult cosigner, of course). So it will have to be a prepaid card in my name for now (both Visa and Mastercard offer a number of options; some even come with ATM access and other features for a small fee). But that's fine. The idea is for her to start learning how to manage credit in a safe environment, long before she's out on her own.

Spending smarts

It's part of a multi-year plan to teach her how to manage money responsibly AND realistically. See, by the time she heads to college in 2023, I doubt paper checks will even exist. And once making purchases by cell phone or fingerprint is widespread, cash likely won't be too common, either. So we're going to skip the passbook savings accounts of my childhood and start next month with an online account at ING, where her allowance will be direct-deposited twice a month, just like a paycheck would. I'll show her how to log on and monitor her balance, and she'll have complete freedom on how to spend it.

Why not, as a coworker suggested, focus purely on saving, encouraging her by matching any amount she saves, as my coworker's parents did? Or buy one of those save/spend/donate piggy banks and require her to put a portion of her allowance in each compartment as many of my friends have done?

Sure, those are great way to get kids to save. But I want my daughter to learn how to spend. Saving is easy (especially when mom and dad make it a condition of your allowance!); what's hard is creating a budget, making tough choices, and living within your means. Those were tough lessons for me to learn as an adult, and I got into debt as a result several times. It took a few bailouts from my mom, a couple of cash-out refinancings, and more years than I care to admit for those lessons to fully sink in. □

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# Obama seeks to highlight economic successes

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama wants to cast some light on economic success stories in the shadows of a slow recovery. And he is looking to find some more. On Friday, the president travels to Schenectady, N.Y., birthplace of the General Electric Co., to showcase a new GE deal with India and announce a restructured presidential advisory board to focus on increasing employment and competitiveness. Obama is naming GE CEO Jeffrey Immelt as the head of a Council on Jobs and Competitiveness. The panel replaces Obama's Economic Recovery Advisory Board, which had been chaired by former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker. Obama announced late Thursday that Volcker, as expected, was ending his tenure on the panel. Obama, in a statement after midnight, said the council's mission will be to help generate ideas from the private sector to speed up economic growth and promote American competitiveness. "We still have a long way to go, and my number one priority is to ensure we are doing everything we can to get the American people back to work," the president said. A new Associated Press-GfK poll shows a public skeptical of Obama's economic policies. More than half of those surveyed disapprove of how he's handled the economy, and just 35 percent say it has improved on his watch. However, three-quarters do

say it's unrealistic to expect noticeable improvements after two years; they say it will take longer. For Obama, the visit to upstate New York is also an opportunity to claim credit for tax, trade and energy policies pursued by his administration as the nation attempts to recover from the worst recession since the 1930s. It's the first of many treks during the second half of his term that the president is expected to take to put a more hopeful countenance on the economy amid stubbornly high unemployment. The GE plant is benefiting from a power turbine contract with India announced during Obama's Southeast Asia trip in November. Immelt also has been an advocate of alternative forms of energy, and the GE facility, the company's largest energy plant, is the future site of GE's advanced battery manufacturing program. New battery technology has become something of an Obama pet project as a symbol of innovation, clean energy and job creation. "This is a company that has brought jobs from overseas back into the United States," Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said.

The White House said GE completed a \$755 million agreement with India's Reliance Power Ltd. to supply gas and steam turbines for a power plant expansion in India. The deal will allow for about \$500 million in exports from the United States, the White House said, and help support 1,200 manufacturing and 400 engineering jobs in the Schenectady plant. Obama also plans to take note of GE employees as examples of middle class Americans who are benefiting from the payroll tax cut he negotiated with Republicans in a December economics package that retained Bush-era tax rates for all taxpayers. And he is expected to make a pitch for new business incentives and renewable energy tax credits contained in that compromise deal. GE and GE customers would benefit from those provisions. In Immelt, Obama has a useful corporate ally. As chief executive of a multinational company, Immelt was one of 20 CEOs who met with the president during a daylong summit at Blair House last month. He was one of 14 U.S. business leaders invited to meet with Chinese President



Hu Jintao this week at the White House and was among the guests for the lavish state dinner that followed. In an opinion piece Friday in the Washington Post, Immelt said the restructured council under his leadership would focus on manufacturing and exports, trade and innovation. "The president and I are committed to a candid and full dialogue among business, labor and government to help ensure that the United States has the most competitive and innovative economy in the world," he wrote. His appointment adds another corporate insider to the White House orbit, underscoring the administration's efforts to build stronger ties to the business community. Earlier this month, Obama named former Commerce secretary

and JPMorgan Chase executive William Daley as chief of staff. Thomas Donohue, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the nation's biggest business organization, said Immelt's appointment was a "promising step" toward creating jobs and enhancing U.S. competitiveness. House Speaker John Boehner's office responded cautiously, saying the commission would only be helpful, if it "yields a new way of looking at the economy in the White House." The change in the advisory board also signals Obama's intention to shift from policies that were designed to stabilize the economy after the 2008 financial meltdown to a renewed focus on increasing employment, a vexing task that could affect his re-election efforts. □



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## U.S. man gets 4 years for trying to spy for China



ALEXANDRIA, Virginia – A Michigan man was sentenced on Friday to four years in prison for trying to get a job with the CIA so he could spy for China, just as Chinese President Hu Jintao was wrapping up his U.S. visit.

Glenn Shriver, 29, pleaded guilty in October to conspiracy to communicate national defense information after admitting he met Chinese officials about 20 times and took about \$70,000 from Chinese intelligence officers.

Shriver said at the sentencing hearing he made a “terrible decision” to try to spy for China and “somewhere along the way I got into bed with the wrong people.”

U.S. District Judge Liam O’Grady sentenced Shriver to four years in prison, as called for in the plea agreement, followed by two years of supervised release.

“Mr. Shriver sold out his country and repeatedly sought a position in our intelligence community so that he could provide classified information to the PRC (People’s Republic of China),” U.S. Attorney Neil MacBride said in a statement.

Prosecutors said Shriver was caught before he could begin working at the Central Intelligence Agency and that he never was close to getting access to classified information.

Shriver spent a year during college studying in Shanghai in 2002-2003 and moved there in 2004 to continue his studies and to work. Prosecutors

said he responded to an advertisement for a writer on U.S.-Sino relations and the contact he met later introduced him to Chinese intelligence agents.

Shriver took the U.S. Foreign Service exam twice at the State Department, failing both times, but the Chinese still paid him \$30,000 for his “friendship” and efforts, according to court papers. He then applied for a job in the CIA’s National Clandestine Service and demanded \$40,000 from the Chinese intelligence officers, according to prosecutors.

During his final employment processing last May, he failed to disclose his contacts and the money he received.

Shriver said he considered the initial contacts “very innocuous” and the offers of money were explained to him as a stipend for living expenses. He said only once did the Chinese contacts say they wanted U.S. secrets.

The sentencing came as Hu wrapped up a four-day visit to the United States that included talks with President Barack Obama and the announcement of numerous commercial deals. Relations between the two countries have been strained at times over issues including China’s currency policies and its position as the largest foreign holder of U.S. debt, as well as tensions over the nuclear ambitions of Iran and North Korea. □



## Police probe graffiti threats against California governor

LOS ANGELES – Police in California are investigating a pair of graffiti death threats against Governor Jerry Brown found scrawled on Thursday in two locations in the Orange County city of Santa Ana.

Police said they were taking the threats especially seriously in light of heightened concerns for the security of elected officials after the January 8 attempted assassination of an Arizona congresswoman at a political event in Tucson.

The first of two graffiti threats, discovered Thursday morning, read: “We gonna kill Gov. Brown 2 14 11,” according to Santa Ana police spokesman Corporal Anthony Bertagna.

Several hours later, police found a second message spray-painted in red: “27 more days 4 Brown,” along with a swastika, Bertagna said, adding that someone later painted over the red “7” with a black “6” as if it were a countdown. Santa Ana police alerted the California Highway Patrol, which provides security for the governor, and CHP detectives will take the lead in the investigation, Bertagna said. Brown, a Democrat and former state attorney general, was sworn in this month as governor, a job he previously held for eight years starting in 1975.

“We’re taking this very seriously, of course, especially when they put out swastikas and threaten the governor, and with all that’s going on in Tucson we have to take this seriously,” Bertagna said.

The graffiti threats came 12 days after a gunman opened fire on a crowd of people gathered outside a Tucson supermarket for a meet-and-greet with U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords, a Democrat who represents southern Arizona.

Giffords, who investigators believe was the attacker’s main target, was shot in the head and gravely wounded. Six bystanders, including a federal judge and 9-year-old girl, were killed. A 22-year-old college dropout who authorities said had a history of mental disturbances is charged in the shooting.

Police in Santa Ana, an affluent city near the coast about 30 miles south of Los Angeles, said other graffiti threats and slurs directed at Asians, blacks and Catholics have surfaced in town during the past month. □

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## Aruba Boutique Louis Vuitton announces World's Oldest Trophy sought in San Francisco

ORANJESTAD — San Francisco has been selected as the host venue for the 34th America's Cup. An official celebration event will be hosted in San Francisco on January 5th, event location details to be announced.

"We sought a venue that fulfills our promise — to showcase the best sailors in the world competing on the fastest boats," said Richard Worth, Chairman, America's Cup Event Authority. "And hosting the America's Cup in San Francisco will realize that promise."

"We thank Mayor Newsom, Board President Chiu, Supervisor Mirkarimi and all of the Board of Supervisors, the staff at City Hall and the Port Authority, Mark Buell and San Francisco America's Cup Organizing Committee, and all who have worked so diligently on securing the bid," Worth continued. "We look forward to working closely with City of San Francisco over the coming months to create a world-class America's Cup event, and a large and lasting beneficial impact on the City."

The world-famous San Francisco Bay will be home to the 2013 America's Cup Finals and the Challenger Selection Series for the Louis Vuitton Cup, as well as an America's Cup World Series event in 2012. This will be the first time the America's Cup has been hosted in the United States since 1995.

*Continued on Page A9*

## Aruba introduces port fee for Yachts



ORANJESTAD - Aruba has instituted a new port tax for all yachts.

The Aruba Ports Authority began collecting the so-called port fee from local and visiting yachts in the harbors of Oranjestad and Barcadera on Jan. 1. It is charged based on hours spent in the harbors and must be paid to clear

customs.

According to the press release, the fee is 17.50 florins (\$9.80) an hour from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., 25 florins (\$14) an hour from 4 p.m.-8 a.m.

(A florin is about 56 U.S. cents.) The port fee must be paid in cash before leaving the harbor. □

## American couple visits Prime Minister of Aruba



ORANJESTAD — This week, the Duncan's from the United States made a courtesy visit to Aruba's Prime Minister Eman in his offices. The Duncan's are fans of "Team Aruba" who travel the United States car racing on race strips around the country. They know the team very well, and took the time to meet with PM Eman while vacationing on Aruba. They informed PM Eman that the Aruba Team does great promotion for the island of Aruba with their travels and competitions. □

## Happy Birthday "Aruba Jim"

This is the 14th time that our dear friend Jim Karthan from Iowa celebrates his birthday in Aruba together with his lovely wife Christy, their good friend Ted, brother and sister-in-law Dimitrios, Frieda, beautiful niece the "Siamotisa" Vicky and friend Costas who came all the way from Greece to help him eat that huge B-day cake and his Aruban family to help him drink all that booze.

Lots of songs, laughs, kisses, hugs and best wishes from all of us, especially from the families Croes, de Haseth, de Miranda, Tonk, Lewis, Maduro and your long-time Aruban friends who love you dearly Yolanda, Ruben, Mirtha, Dito and George. Hronia polla to you and Hiliohronos: live a thousand years. Aruba cherishes you. Congratulations to Jim from Aruba Today. ☐



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# Aruba Boutique Louis Vuitton announces World's Oldest Trophy sought in San Francisco



*Continued from Page A7*

"Today is one of great celebration, with San Francisco winning the right to host the America's Cup, and all of the economic benefit, jobs and excitement that comes with it," said Mayor Gavin Newsom. "San Francisco is the best place on Earth to host an event of this stature, and we could not be more proud to be the city that brings the America's Cup back home to the United States." Independent studies show that the America's Cup delivers

the third largest economic impact in sport to host countries, behind the Olympic Games and soccer's World Cup. The 34th America's Cup is projected to pump an estimated \$1.4 billion dollars into the San Francisco region. "As a native San Franciscan, I grew up sailing in front of the City. Racing for the America's Cup in San Francisco is something I have dreamt of my whole life," said Paul Cayard, CEO of Sweden's Artemis Racing, a challenger for the 34th America's Cup.



"By hosting sailing's most important event in the Bay, the world will see sailing as it never has before. As a team, Artemis Racing is particularly looking forward to competing in San Francisco."

Racing will be held on the iconic San Francisco Cityfront and be visible from world-renown tourist destinations such as the Golden Gate Bridge, the Marin Headlands, Crissy Field, the Embarcadero and Fisherman's Wharf. An influx of millions of tourists is expected for the Challenger Series for the Louis Vuitton Cup and the America's Cup Finals in late 2013.

"My support for San Francisco hosting the America's Cup goes beyond the opportunity to see our team competing on



home waters," said Russell Coutts, CEO, ORACLE Racing, the current America's Cup defending team. "We are excited to sail for our sport's greatest trophy, on a stretch of water legendary among sailors worldwide."

The Race Village will be constructed on Piers 19 and 29, with the team bases at and around Pier 30/32. As part of the plan, the America's Cup Event Authority will redevelop these piers as well as the surrounding infrastructure to support the racing, while rehabilitating the piers for the enjoyment of generations of San Franciscans to come.

With a goal of creating the most dynamic America's Cup in history for fans and participants, changes have been introduced to the 34<sup>th</sup> edition. Enhancements include the introduction of groundbreaking new 72' wing-sailed catamarans capable of speeds in excess of 40 miles per hour, new race formats and rules, and a transformed media and online

broadcasting approach to enable an interactive viewer experience.

In the summer of 2011, America's Cup teams will commence racing in the new America's Cup World Series in the new wing-sailed AC45 catamaran.

The America's Cup World Series calendar of events will be published in early 2011.

## About the America's Cup:

Nearly 160 years old, the America's Cup is the oldest trophy in international sport. Initially a one-on-one competition between teams representing foreign yacht clubs, the America's Cup has evolved into one of the world's leading sporting competitions – featuring the best sailors on the world's fastest boats – the wing-sailed AC45 and AC72 catamarans. The 34th America's Cup Finals will be held in late 2013 in San Francisco, with the new America's Cup World Series beginning in 2011. For more information, visit [www.americascup.com](http://www.americascup.com)



# Food & Wine Festival at cozy Arawak Garden on January 22

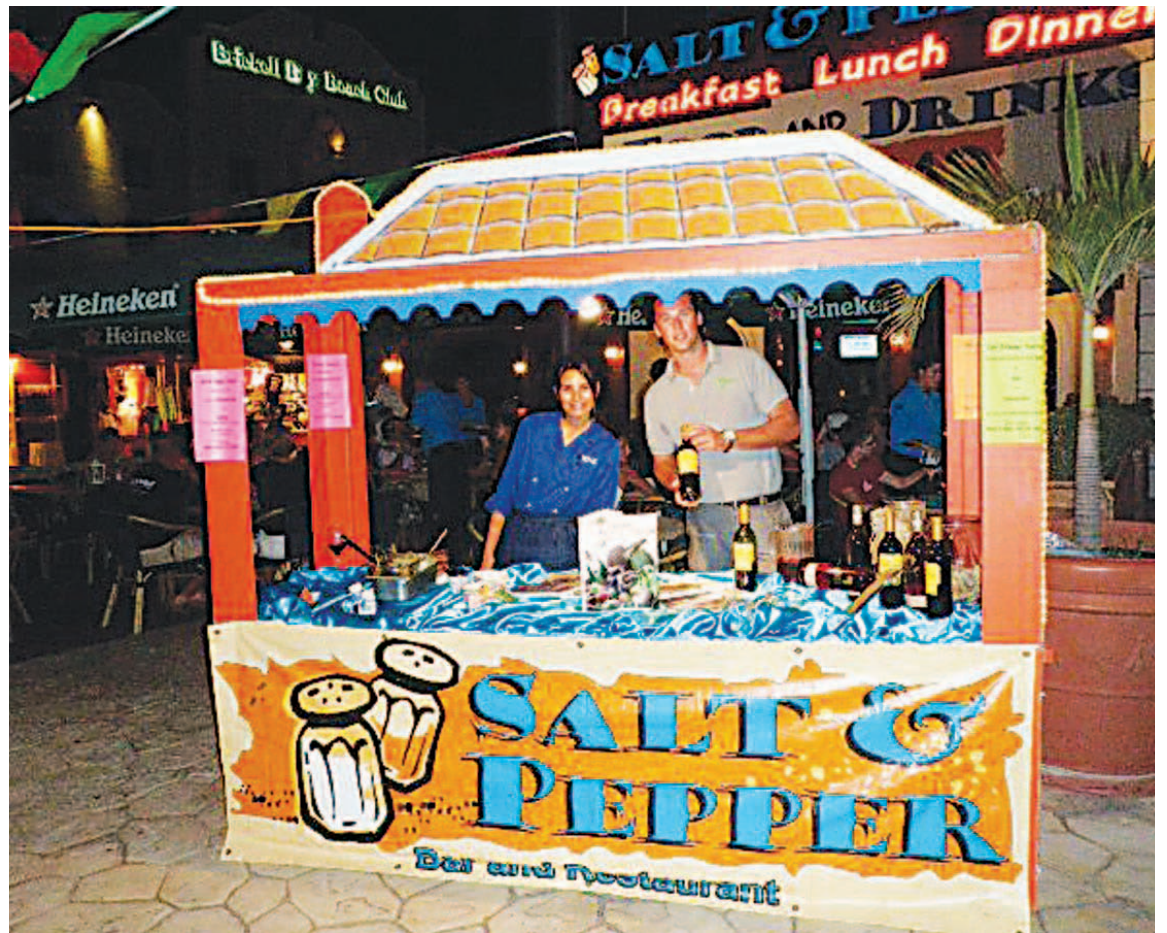


PALM BEACH - Saturday January 22 should be on your 'things to do' list! It is the date of the monthly Food & Wine Festival, held at the Arawak Garden across from the high rise hotels. The cozy courtyard will be filled with the sounds of live music and there are wine tastings and more. All the restaurants of the Arawak Garden have come up with enticing specials, so come and enjoy!

Popular Salt & Pepper offers a Tapas Platter for Two with a pitcher of Sangria; there is a choice of six tapas. Tango Restaurant, where one can find the best meat on the island, is serving a Mixed Grill Skewer with a glass of Sangria, while Burger King lures everyone with a free dessert with the purchase of any Value Meal.

But this is not all: Fishes & More is going all-out with a three-course menu; Casa Tua follows suit with a Seafood Risotto. Piano Bar Sopranos, the hippest place for drinks, is featuring a fantastic piano player, who is belting out requests. A live cigar roller will be entertaining you as well.

Entrance to the Food & Wine Festival at cozy Arawak Garden (across from the Occidental Resort) is free of charge; the festival starts at 5 pm; it is sponsored by Pepia Est, Romar Trading, Compra and Aruba Wine and Dine.



*Start your weekend the right way*

## Amazonia Churrascaria hosts a Brazilian Happy Hour



Palm Beach – If you gotta feeling that tonight's gonna be a good-good night, start it at Amazonia Churrascaria. You are invited to relax and unwind with your friends at a Brazilian Happy Hour every Friday and Saturday from 8PM till late, to live DJ mixing with some of Aruba's top master-mixers.

The Brazilian Happy Hour on the terrace of Amazonia Churrascaria offers great dance music over Brazilian

cocktails such as caipirinia, and caipiroska in a tropical ambiance.

As a perfect complement to a chic evening, the Amazonia Churrascaria kitchen prepared a list of delectable hors d'oeuvres such as Chicken and Pineapple Pinchos, BBQ Wings with Garlic Sauce, Brazilian Chorizo with Fried Polenta, Amazonia BBQ Rib Sticks, Tenderloin and Yucca with Chimichurri Sauce, Mushrooms Stir

Fried in Parsley and Garlic Oil, and Mejillones Sebastian, which are Mussels Braised with White Wine and Fish Stock, ready to delight party-goers to the wee hours.

The Brazilian Happy Hour at Amazonia Churrascaria is ready to receive Aruba's beautiful people on their weekend adventures, with restaurant manager Michael Ras as the host! □



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# Curacao a hot destination to watch in 2011



WILLEMSTAD, Curacao -- Curacao is popping up on every jetsetter's travel radar for the New Year. The colourful Caribbean island has been selected as one of the 'Hottest Destinations for 2011' by AOL Travel and one of the 'Destinations to Watch in 2011' by SmarterTravel.

"Curacao is proud and honoured to be on the top destination lists of two of the world's most respected, trusted travel news sites," says Curacao Tourist Board Marketing Manager North America André Rojer. "Travelers are excited about discovering exotic, off-the-

radar destinations, such as Curacao. Our new country status, hotel developments and increased airlift are helping to propel the island forward as an increasingly emerging destination for Americans." AOL Travel describes Curacao's stunning capital as a Caribbean fairytale, adding,

"The island became a self-autonomous region within the Netherlands in October 2010, and its citizens will be celebrating all year. Not that they shouldn't celebrate every year. Curacao offers exceptional diving, charming plantations (landhuizen), and eco-centric activities in its cunucu (countryside)." Curacao was also the only Caribbean destination on SmarterTravel's short list that included unique, global locales such as Iceland and New Zealand, and hot spots a bit closer to home, such as New York City and Atlanta, Georgia. SmarterTravel praises the azure-blue waters and colorful architecture of Curacao, writing, "It's not every day the world gets a new country. But 2011 will mark Curacao's first full year as an autonomous nation within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, adding a new chapter to the island's rich history. Among

its first orders of business is making itself more accessible to Americans and Canadians." USA Today, one of the top daily newspapers in the US, also picked up on SmarterTravel's recommendations for travel in 2011. Last year Curacao was chosen as a 'Top 10 Destination for 2010' by Microsoft's Bing.com, one of the hottest new search engines on the Web. The unique island paradise of Curacao has an ideal locale, situated between Aruba and Bonaire, just 35 miles north of Venezuela. Unlike many Caribbean islands, Curacao enjoys a prime location on the fringe of the hurricane belt, making for a spectacular vacation any time of year. Both AOL Travel and SmarterTravel are top online travel resources for providing trusted travel news, deals, expert advice, as well as travel guides for destinations across the globe. □

## Currency issue for former Antillean Islands



PHILIPSBURG -- Research and consultation on the possibility of dollarisation for St. Maarten instead of the planned Caribbean Guilder in 2012 is based on establishing what is best for the island, said Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-

Williams on Wednesday. The Council of Ministers has had talks about dollarisation with Central Bank Head Emsley Tromp and the St. Maarten Bankers Association in the past week. Asked in the weekly Council

of Ministers press conference about the view of government on dollarisation, Wescot-Williams said the coalition partners' view about moving to the use of the US dollar as official tender still stood, but no firm decision would be made without the use of as many factors as possible. Arriving at the decision whether or not to dollarise is "not easy," she said, adding that every time an option was clear, more questions and views were raised that needed to be taken into consideration. The prime minister noted that it was not possible to bring everything into the equation to make a decision on whether to keep the planned joint currency with Curaçao or move to the dollar. □



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# The Disaster of 'Baby Doc' Duvalier's Return to Haiti



WASHINGTON, DC – Last week, former Haitian President Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier returned to Haiti, ending his 25-year exile after a 1986 popular uprising had ousted the notoriously corrupt ruler. As the still deeply troubled Haiti lurches toward a presidential election, Duvalier is seeking a return to power, which everyone agrees is the last thing that Haiti needs. Within two days of arriving in Port-au-Prince, he was officially charged with embezzlement and corruption. Here’s what reporters and Haiti-watchers are saying about Duvalier’s return, his ambitions, and what it means.

**Baby Doc’s Brutal Record** The BBC reminds us that “Jean-Claude Duvalier was just 19 when he inherited the title of president-for-life from his father, Francois ‘Papa Doc’ Duvalier, who had ruled Haiti since 1957. Like his father, he relied on a brutal militia known as the Tontons Macoutes to control the country.” That record came up this week when Duvalier was “sued for torture and other crimes against humanity” by “a former United Nations spokeswoman, Michele Montas, and three Haitians who were jailed during Mr Duvalier’s 1971-1986 rule.”

**‘The Ghosts of Duvalier’** Foreign Policy’s Elizabeth Abbott examines Duvalier’s brutal reign and how its awful legacy lives on.

Duvalier left behind Duvalierism, a system of government too profoundly entrenched to truly eradicate. And it’s Duvalierism, with or without its figurehead, that explains, among other tragedies, the near paralysis of the René Préal government’s response to the 2010 earthquake that killed nearly 300,000, decimated the civil service, smashed buildings, and obliterated the landscape. More recently, it explains the government’s attempt to pervert the

electoral process by engineering the victory of Jude Celestin, Préval’s protégé.

**Get Him Out of Haiti** The New York Times editorial board insists that Duvalier be made to “answer for his squalid legacy of disappearance, torture and murder.” They fume, “Duvalier has nothing to offer the country that he and his father, François Duvalier, who was known as Papa Doc, looted and brutalized for decades. Every moment that Jean-Claude Duvalier spends free in Haiti adds insult to catastrophic injury.”

**Why Did He Return?** “Nobody knows,” Mother Jones’ Mac McClelland writes.

Rumors are flying on the street and in newscasts that the Americans and/or the French orchestrated his return to mess with President René Préal, who’s been accused of corrupting the recent, still-contested elections. (Both governments have denied knowing about the trip or its purpose). Another theory is that Préal invited Duvalier here just to arrest him, as a means of taking attention off the elections and the abysmal post-earthquake conditions. Another’s that the 59-year-old Duvalier’s unhealthy appearance is proof that he’s terminally ill and just wanted to come back to Haiti to die. Or perhaps he came to get back into politics. In *It For the Money?* The New York Times’ Ginger Thompson pushes back on fears that Baby Doc wants another shot at power. “Duvalier’s risky return home from France may have been driven by another motivation: money. Though Mr. Duvalier has long been accused of looting \$300 million from Haiti before fleeing nearly 25 years ago, his lawyers and friends have said that much of his money was squandered on a lavish lifestyle of jewelry, chateaus, fancy cars and a very expensive divorce from his ex-wife.” □

## Civility Not Censorship

Civility in public discourse is important, but it should not be used as an excuse to stifle legitimate debate or denude our language of color, passion, or good metaphor. Unfortunately, some in the media don’t seem to understand the difference. CNN’s John King, for example, apologized on air this week for a guest’s use of the phrase “in the cross hairs” in reference to the Chicago mayoral race. Others have suggested that words like “target” shouldn’t be used as either a verb or noun when discussing political campaigns.

In the wake of the horrific murders of six people in Tucson and the maiming of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and more than a dozen others, reluctance to engage in shooting metaphors might be understandable. But it’s foolish to think using such words had anything to do with what happened and curbing such metaphors lends credence to that theory. Jared Loughner, the man charged with the shootings, is, most likely, a paranoid schizophrenic with no ties to any political party or ideology.

Bellicose metaphors have been a staple of politics from the beginning. The very term “campaign” comes from the French word for open land, *compagne*, and was used in English to refer to the time spent on the battlefield or to a series of distinct military maneuvers. We routinely talk about “rounds” in political debates, though the word can also describe a unit of ammunition. When we say a candidate “took his best shot,” we don’t mean he aimed a gun at his opponent. Nor does “firing a shot across the bow” mean anything more than issuing a strong warning. Such rhetorical devices enrich our language and putting them off-limits would deprive us of the ability to express ourselves fully. We’ve already virtually eliminated certain words from our public vocabulary or revised the meaning of others to conform to political correctness. Former Washington Mayor Anthony Williams forced the resignation a decade ago of a white staffer who used the word “niggardly” in a private staff meeting, even though the word means miserly or parsimonious; its etymology, according to Webster’s Third New International Dictionary, traces from the Old Norse to Middle English and has nothing to do with race or color. The meaning of the word “gay” has been adopted to describe sexual orientation, and “queer,” which once simply meant odd or peculiar, was first appropriated by those who used it as a derogatory epithet against homosexuals and, later, was embraced by some homosexuals in effort to lessen the sting. Several years ago, the Los Angeles Times put out a style manual that restricted the use of some words: “Indian,” “Hispanic,” “ghetto,” even “inner-city,” requiring “Native American,” “Latino,” and “urban” be used instead. □



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Home Made Pastries & Cakes

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## 400 missing in Brazil slides; Toll hits 763

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazilian officials say about 400 people are registered as missing after mudslides last week that killed 767 people. The Rio de Janeiro public prosecutor's office is tallying the list.

The slides are the deadliest natural disaster to hit Brazil since flooding killed 785 people four decades ago.

## Police: Bus assault in Jamaica leaves 5 dead

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Police in Jamaica say five people have died, including two suspects, after gunmen tried to assault a bus in the island's southeast region.

Police Corporal Courtney Gibbs said three gunmen boarded a bus on Friday at a busy intersection in St. Andrew parish and tried to force the driver to take them to a rough neighborhood in the capital of Kingston.

## Berlin police arrest mosque arson suspect

BERLIN (AP) — Berlin police say they have arrested a man suspected in a series of recent arson attacks on mosques in the German capital.

Police said the 30-year-old German was arrested outside a subway station in the city Friday. He wasn't identified. There have been at least seven attempted arson attacks on Berlin mosques and other Islamic institutions in recent months. They haven't caused major damage but have unsettled Muslims and authorities in the capital.



Thousands of students demonstrate against planned government cuts to higher education and increases in tuition fees, in The Hague, Netherlands, Friday Jan. 21, 2011. Banner at foreground left reads, "Invest in Education".

Associated Press

# Thousands of Dutch students protest education budget cuts

MIKE CORDER,

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Thousands of Dutch students and professors demonstrated Friday against education spending cuts, at one point briefly clashing with police outside Parliament.

Police, some on horseback, carried out charges near the parliament building after protesters began pulling cobblestones from the street and throwing beer cans, according to an Associated Press photographer.

"It is very restless around the Education Ministry and Parliament," the Hague police department said on its Twitter feed. "Police and horses in action to restore calm."

Police quickly herded the protesters away from Parliament.

No injuries were reported, and there was no immediate word on any arrests.

Around 11,000 protesters had earlier attended a peaceful demonstration against the government spending cuts, which would force schools and

students to pay more when students fail to graduate on schedule.

The government has said budget cuts will be matched by investments aimed at improving the quality of education. Under the new proposals, students who take more than two extra years to complete their degree will have to pay an extra €3,000 (\$4,000) per year in fees — and so will their university or college.

Universities say that will lead to 7,000 jobs lost this year, a figure the Cabinet disputes.

"At a time when we have to save €18 billion (\$24.25 billion) ... we also want to invest in education and to do that we have to ask for an extra contribution from students who study for a long time," said Education Minister Halbe Zijlstra.

Zijlstra was booed as he addressed the demonstration from a large stage set up in The Hague's central Malieveld park.

"We are doing this to prevent all of you in the future having to spend a fortune paying off the national debt," he told the students.



In this Dec. 22, 2010 file photo, Anna Chapman, who was deported from the U.S. on charges of espionage, is seen on stage during an event with leaders of the Young Guards, a pro-Kremlin youth movement she joined, in Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press

## Russian spy Chapman reveals 'all the secrets'

DAVID NOWAK

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian spy Anna Chapman stares seductively into the camera lens and declares "I will uncover all the secrets." It's the top of a new television show that takes her post-espionage career as a media persona to a new level.

The secrets to which the 28-year-old Chapman alludes aren't about her years of undercover work in the U.S., but on unexplained mysteries of the occult.

The new television show, which debuted Friday night on the private REN-TV network, further raises Chapman's profile among Russians who have already seen her pose half-naked in a men's magazine and attend a rocket launch.

# Tunisian prime minister pledges to quit politics

**BOUAZZA BEN BOUAZZA**  
**HADEEL AL-SHALCHI**

**Associated Press**

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Tunisia's prime minister pledged Friday to quit politics after elections that he says will be held as soon as possible, amid protests by citizens still angry at officials linked to their deposed president's regime.

Mohamed Ghannouchi said in an interview on Tunisian television Friday he will leave power after a transition phase leading to legislative and presidential elections "in the shortest possible timeframe."

Protesters have been demanding for days the departure of all remnants of the old guard under ousted President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Ghannouchi was an ally of Ben Ali and has been struggling to restore calm under a new multiparty government.

"My role is to bring my country out of this temporary phase and even if I am nominated I will refuse it and leave politics," Ghannouchi said.

Ghannouchi did not say why he is leaving politics or specify when the elections would be held. He said the elections must be a success "to show the world that our country has a civilization." The prime minister also pledged that all of the assets held abroad by Ben Ali's regime had been frozen and would be returned to Tunisia after an investigation. He did not elaborate.

Tunisians began three days of mourning Friday, lowering flags and broadcasting recitations of the Quran to mourn dozens who died in the protests that drove their autocratic leader from power. Earlier in the day, about 1,000 demonstrators gathered in the courtyard of Ghannouchi's offices, some climbing lampposts and hanging Tunisian flags and hand-lettered signs.

Central Tunis has seen near-daily protests in the past week by those who say the caretaker government is still too dominated by cronies of ousted President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The government has declared three days of national mourning as it struggles to restore calm and reconcile this Muslim nation in North Africa, whose people are hopeful yet scarred by 23 years of limited freedom that ended when Ben Ali fled to Saudi Arabia.

Tunisia is also a beach and desert haven for European tourists and U.S. ally in the fight against terror. □

# Iran sees progress at talks, others not so sure



**Iran's Chief Nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili salutes as he leaves Ottoman-era Sultan Ahmed Mosque after he attended Friday prayers there following the for round of talks between Iran and world powers on Iran's nuclear program at the historical Ciragan Palace in Istanbul, Turkey, Friday, Jan. 21, 2011.**

**Associated Press**

**GEORGE JAHN**

**Associated Press**

ISTANBUL (AP) — A long day of talks between Iran and six world powers ended with little progress beyond agreement to meet again Saturday, amid stiff resistance by Tehran to demands for discussion of its nuclear activities that could be used to make weapons.

Tehran denies that it wants nuclear arms, insisting it wants only to make peaceful nuclear energy for its rising population. But concerns have grown — because its uranium enrichment program could also make fissile warhead material, because of its nuclear secrecy and also because the Islamic Republic refuses to cooperate

with U.N. attempts to investigate suspicions that it ran experiments related to making nuclear weapons.

While the six want the two-days of talks focused at freezing Iran's uranium enrichment program, Tehran has repeatedly said this activity is not up for discussion. Instead, Iranian officials are pushing an agenda that covers just about everything except its nuclear program: global disarmament, Israel's suspected nuclear arsenal, and Tehran's concerns about U.S. military bases in Iraq and elsewhere.

The length of Friday's negotiations reflected the divide between the two sides with talks lasting for nearly

14 hours before a diplomat familiar with the talks said they recessed for the night. And U.S. comments that focused on what did not happen as opposed to what did, reinforced the lack of progress. "We would like to see a meaningful and practical negotiation process emerge with Iran's nuclear program as a core focus," said State Department spokesman Philip J. Crowley in Washington. "And, as we have consistently made clear, these meetings are an opportunity for Iran to come forward and address matters that are of great concern to the international community, primarily its nuclear program."

Stating that he could not say whether "the entire issue will be resolved in this meeting in Istanbul, despite our best efforts," Crowley urged reporters to wait for "a fuller report" when the meeting concludes Saturday.

"We're going to wait until the full game has been played, and then we'll report to you as to what has been accomplished and what happens next," he said.

His comments contrasted with Iran's optimistic take earlier in the day, when an envoy from the Islamic Republic said differences were narrowing. □

# U.S. revokes visas to pressure Haiti on election



Haiti's presidential candidate Michel Martelly speaks during a press conference in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Friday Jan. 21, 2011. The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations said Thursday that Haiti must accept the Organization of American States' call to replace a candidate backed by President Rene Preval in a disputed presidential election, to be replaced by singer Martelly, who would face a runoff election with former first lady Mirlande Manigat, the top vote-getter.

**Associated Press**

**BEN FOX**

**JONATHAN M. KATZ**

**Associated Press**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The U.S. State Department said Friday it revoked the visas of about a dozen Haitian officials, increasing pressure on the government to drop its favored candidate from the presidential runoff in favor of a popular contender who is warning of renewed protests if he is not on the ballot.

Revoking visas that let prominent Haitians enter the United States is the latest step in an escalating effort to persuade Haiti's government to accept international monitors' finding that Michel Martelly rightfully belongs on the second-round ballot.

Martelly has adopted a combative stance and urged his supporters to take to the streets peacefully if the electoral council does not allow him to run against top vote-getter Mirlande Manigat in the runoff, in place of Jude Celestin. Demonstrations in December

shut down all Haiti's major cities for days, hampering earthquake reconstruction and efforts to halt a cholera outbreak that has killed nearly 4,000 people.

"We are ready to fight for justice for everyone," Martelly said at a news conference while surrounded by bodyguards. "We won't accept an electoral coup."

Preliminary official results from the first round of voting showed Martelly failing to reach the runoff — finishing just behind Celestin, President Rene Preval's chosen successor.

But an international team of experts from the Organization of American States found problems with the count. Its calculation indicated Martelly, a singer known as "Sweet Mickey," beat Celestin and should be in the runoff. The U.S. and other foreign forces have been pushing the government to accept that ruling.

A senior State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of privacy concerns, would not specify the names of the

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## Risky S.Korean raid saves entire crew from pirates

KIM KWANG-TAE

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— At dawn, South Korean special forces packed into a small boat approached a hijacked freighter in the Arabian Sea. Commandos scrambled up a ladder onto the ship, aboard which Somali pirates were armed with AK assault rifles and anti-tank missiles. A South Korean destroyer and hovering Lynx helicopter provided covering fire.

When Friday's operation ended five hours later, 21 hostages had been rescued, eight Somali pirates killed and five assailants captured. Pockmarks from artillery fire blanketed the ship's bridge. One of the hostages was wounded, but all were alive — a remarkable ending for a risky rescue. Only a handful of rescues in recent years have involved such peril to the crew.

A wife of one of the South Korean crew cried in gratitude as the weeklong hijacking came to an end.

"Family members couldn't sleep or eat well and prayed

for a safe return. I am very relieved," she said, according to Yonhap news agency.

The daring and rare raid — what the South's president called a "perfect operation" — handed South Korea a stunning success in the battle against pirates who have long tormented shipping in the waters between Africa and the Arabian peninsula.

It was also a triumph for President Lee Myung-bak, whose government suffered harsh criticism at home in the weeks following a North Korean attack in November on a South Korean island near disputed waters.

Critics said Lee's military was too slow and weak in its response to the attack, which

killed two marines and two civilians.

Friday's operation in waters between Oman and Africa came a week after the Somali attackers seized the Samho Jewelry, a 11,500-ton chemical carrier, as it was sailing from the United Arab Emirates to Sri Lanka.

During the rescue, the South Korean captain was shot by a pirate. He was taken by a U.S. helicopter to a nearby country for treatment, but the wound is not life-threatening, Lt. Gen. Lee Sung-ho told reporters. The 20 other crew members — seven South Koreans, two Indonesians and 11 citizens from Myanmar — were rescued unharmed and were in good condition, he said. □



In this photo released by the Arabian Navy via Yonhap, South Korean naval special forces operate to rescue crew members aboard the South Korean cargo ship Samho Jewelry in the Arabian Sea Friday, Jan. 21, 2011.

Associated Press

## Costa Rica raids properties in U.S. fraud case

NATHALIA ROJAS, Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Costa Rican investigators Friday searched two football stadiums linked to a businessman charged in the U.S. with defrauding clients of his "life settlement" industry.

The raids are part of an investigation into whether Minor Vargas laundered fraudulently obtained funds through his Costa Rican assets, said acting Attorney General Guillermo Hernandez.

The two stadiums are home to two football teams owned by Vargas, club Brujas and Coyella Fonseca. Investigators also searched his residence and offices.

A U.S. federal grand jury indictment unsealed Wednesday charges Provident Capital Indemnity Ltd. with defrauding clients. Vargas, the company's majority owner and president, and an outside auditor were charged with seven counts of conspiracy, wire fraud and mail fraud. □

# Belarus' president takes hard line at inauguration



Belarus's President Alexander Lukashenko takes his oath of office during his inauguration ceremony in Minsk, Friday, Jan. 21, 2011.

*Associated Press*

**YURAS KARMANAU**

**Associated Press**

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — The authoritarian president of Belarus warned Friday that no dissent will be tolerated as he took the oath of office for a fourth time in a ceremony that was boycotted by European Union ambassadors.

Alexander Lukashenko was re-elected last month in a vote

widely seen as fraudulent and has since cracked down on the opposition, including jailing hundreds of opposition protesters and also seven candidates who ran against him in the Dec. 19 poll. Lukashenko also closed the office for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe after its election observers called the vote flawed.

"The people have spoken, confirming once again that Belarus is a free and democratic state, and the choice made by the people is sacred and indisputable," Lukashenko said from the podium.

The 56-year-old president has accused Poland and Germany of plotting to overthrow him, claims both countries have rejected. The resulting tensions between the EU and Belarus are pushing this former Soviet republic back into the orbit of its traditional ally and master, Russia.

This was on display during the swearing-in ceremony Friday, which was attended by Russia's ambassador but boycotted by envoys of European Union nations, who visited a university for students exiled from Belarus in neighboring Lithuania.

Lukashenko defended the legitimacy of his re-election, and vowed that Belarus would stamp out any signs of the kind of peaceful revolutions

that overthrew regimes in Ukraine in 2005 — known as the Orange Revolution — and Georgia in 2003, in what came to be known as the Rose Revolution.

"The virus of color revolutions defeats only weak nations," Lukashenko said. The country has "exhausted the limits of revolutions and upheavals" and his government will "safeguard security and stability against plots from within and outside the country."

Those words were upheld outside the building on a central square later Friday, when up to 10 people who had arrived to peacefully protest the inauguration were hustled aboard a police bus.

One of the detained demonstrators, Maxim Vinyarsky, called Lukashenko "a dictator who stole power and takes political prisoners." The EU has threatened to re-impose travel restrictions on Lukashenko and other top officials over the flawed

elections and subsequent crackdown if 30 opposition activists, including four presidential candidates, are not released. Lukashenko, who appeared to rule that out on Thursday, ordered his government to prepare harsh retaliatory measures if the sanctions are applied.

The travel ban had been lifted in 2008 as the country, once described by the United States as Europe's last dictatorship, made modest progress on rights issues.

Several EU member states and EU's Foreign Affairs chief Catherine Ashton also have said they may reinstate the ban when EU foreign ministers meet in Brussels on Jan. 31.

Lukashenko's security forces have conducted an uncompromising crackdown on anyone thought to have played a role in the protests, making more arrests, collecting fingerprints, and confiscating journalists' files and hard drives. □

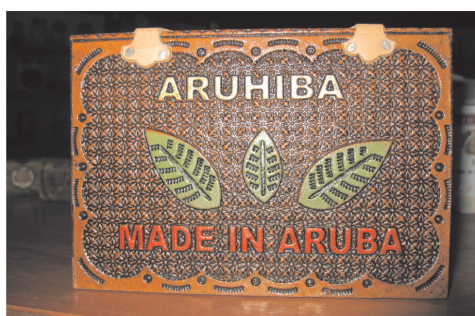
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has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift

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### The Oldest Rivalry



In this Jan. 19, 2011 photo, Charlie May, 76, whose family history and the Chicago Bears team's history have been intertwined since his dad, Walter "Red" May, played for the Decatur Staleys before the team moved the team to Chicago and changed their name to the Bears, shows off a photo of his dad and the leather helmet he wore, in Decatur, Ill.

Associated Press

### Bears-Packers: Fans say it's the biggest game ever

DON BABWIN  
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The Green Bay Packers are headed to town for the NFC Championship game and Chicago Bears fans are starting to become, well, a bit unbearable.

Turn on the radio in Chicago and you'll hear no shortage of jokes about Packers fans, many of which have something to do with low intelligence. There's been plenty of laughs over a Green Bay newspaper headline that read "On To Chicaco." Many more center on the dietary habits of Packers fans, known as Cheeseheads, like this one: What do you call a 400-pound Packer fan? Anorexic.

Continued on Page B6

# BIG BEN'S BACK



The NFL's 2010 NFC Championship George S. Halas Trophy is displayed with a Chicago Bears helmet and a Green Bay Packers helmet during a news conference at Halas Hall, Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011, in Lake Forest, Ill.

Associated Press

## Steelers and Jets Face off for AFC Championship

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) celebrates after a 31-24 win over the Baltimore Ravens in an NFL divisional football game in Pittsburgh, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011. The Steelers advanced to the AFC Championship game.

Associated Press  
PAGE B5

## Ailing Venus is out Down Under; quits in 3rd round

Venus Williams of the U.S. reacts during a press conference after she withdrew from her third round match against Germany's Andrea Petkovic injured at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 21, 2011.

Associated Press  
PAGE B8



# Lindsey Vonn wins super-G in Cortina; Riesch 9th



The Lindsey Vonn, of the United States, reacts at finish line after winning an alpine ski, women's World Cup super-G race, in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, Friday, Jan. 21, 2011.

Associated Press

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy (AP) — Lindsey Vonn finally had an error-free run and posted her fifth victory of the season in a super-G on Friday to take a big chunk out of Maria Riesch's overall World Cup lead.

Vonn, who has had to make difficult recoveries in several recent races, sped down the

shortened Olympia delle Tofane course in 1 minute, 11.66 seconds.

"All I'm happy about really today is that I had a good, clean run," Vonn said. "In the past few races I've been making mistakes, and today I found a happy balance, a happy medium, and I was able to ski solid and have a good day."

Swedish standout Anja

Paerson finished second, 0.43 seconds behind, to match her best result this season. Anna Fenninger of Austria was third, 0.47 back, in partly cloudy and uncharacteristically cold conditions for Cortina, with the temperature 10 degrees Fahrenheit at the top of the course.

Paerson has been skiing through knee pain for years, and a couple jumps on the top of the course always cause her trouble.

"I was a little tentative on top and then pushed really hard on the bottom," the Swede said. "I was able to straighten out some problems with my equipment since the last speed races. Speed skiing is all about finding the right harmony and feeling and I'm starting to feel good."

"I'm not even close to winning any cups, so my focus is really on the world championships," Paerson added, looking ahead to the two-week event in Garmisch-Partenkirchen,

Germany, next month.

Vonn's American teammate Julia Mancuso made an error toward the end of her run and placed fourth, just 0.13 off the podium, and Swiss teenager Lara Gut, who won the previous super-G in Zauchensee, Austria, was fifth.

Riesch placed ninth and lost 68 points to Vonn in the overall chase, with the German now leading 1,052-927. Vonn holds a 131-point lead over Riesch in the super-G standings through three races.

It was Vonn's fourth career victory in Cortina and she'll be favored again in Saturday's downhill and in another super-G on Sunday.

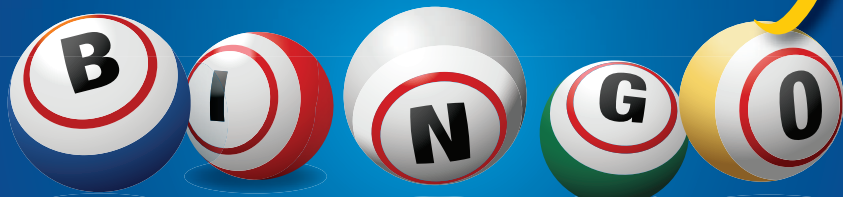
Vonn recorded the first podium finish of her career in Cortina seven years ago and now has nine career top-three finishes at the posh resort in the Dolomite Range. Retired Austrian great Renate Goetschl holds the record with 10 career wins in Cortina.

This week didn't start well for Vonn, however, after a near wipeout in her opening downhill training run Wednesday, which brought back memories of several more recent recoveries.

In the circuit's previous downhill in Zauchensee, Vonn skied well off course on a sharp right turn but managed to recover in time and win.

She also won despite a wobble near the top of her downhill run in Val d'Isere, France, last month. Before that, Vonn went flying off the course in Lake Louise, Alberta, before recovering, although the mistake cost her the victory and gave away a precious win to Riesch. "I was like, 'OK, that's enough,' I really need to just take it easy and ski 90 percent — ski cleanly but don't risk too much," Vonn said. "It slows you down and it's also very dangerous. This whole weekend my goal is just to have clean runs and no mistakes." □

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*NBA Roundup*

## Augustin, Henderson help Bobcats beat 76ers 100-97

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — D.J. Augustin scored a career-high 31 points, including four free throws in the final 11 seconds, and Gerald Henderson added three big baskets late, as the Charlotte Bobcats beat the Philadelphia 76ers 100-97 on Thursday.

Avenging an overtime defeat to the 76ers four days earlier, the Bobcats won their second straight game the same night they found out forward Tyrus Thomas would be out up two months with a knee injury.

Thaddeus Young scored 15 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter for the Sixers, who rallied from an eight-point deficit to take the lead before Henderson hit three consecutive jumpers.

Andre Iguodala added 19 points, but missed a

free throw and a jumper in the final minute in Philadelphia's second straight loss.

**Bulls 82, Mavericks 77**

At Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 26 points to lead Chicago past Dallas.

Rose shot 9 for 28 from the field, shouldering a larger-than-usual share of the offensive load in the absence of injured forward Carlos Boozer.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 19 points to lead Dallas, while Jason Terry, Tyson Chandler and DeShawn Stevenson added 12 points apiece. Stevenson took all 10 of his shots from 3-point range, hitting four.

After Rose's pull-up jumper gave the Bulls an 80-77 lead with 55 seconds to go, Terry missed a tying 3-pointer with 15 seconds to play. Chicago's Kyle Korver then made two free

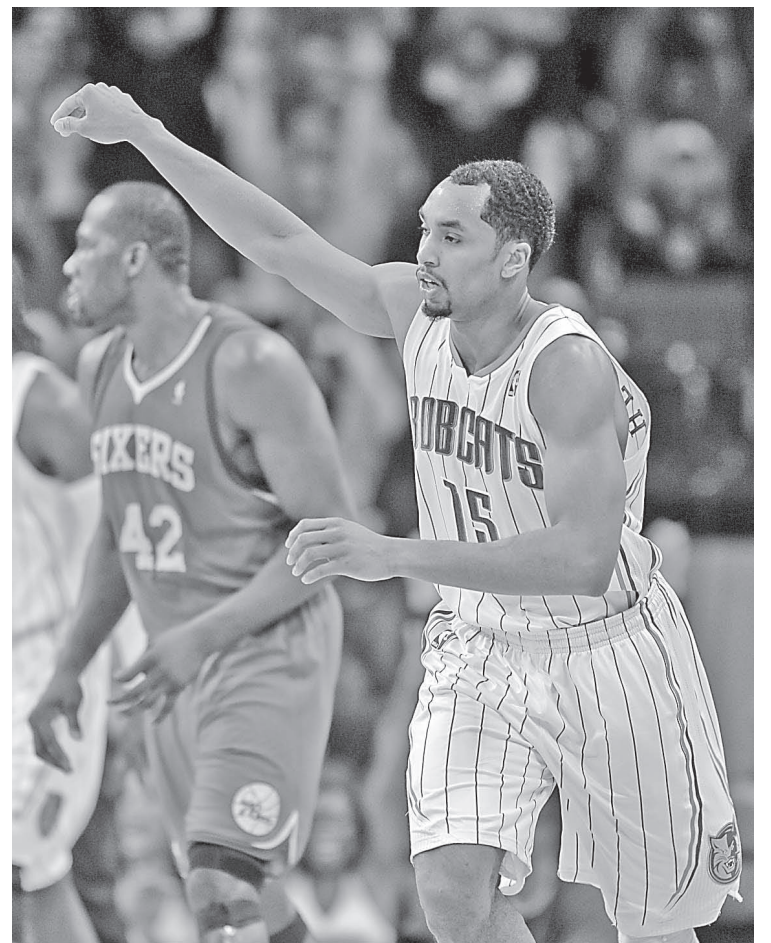
throws to seal the win.

**Trail Blazers 108, Clippers 93**

At Portland, Oregon, LaMarcus Aldridge had 28 points and eight rebounds, and Wesley Matthews added 28 points as Portland beat the Los Angeles Clippers to match a season high with its fourth straight win.

The Trail Blazers shot 56 percent from the field and went on an 18-6 run to finish the game. Rudy Fernandez had 17 points and Andre Miller added 15 for the Blazers, who are 11-2 in their last 13 home games.

Eric Gordon had 35 points for Los Angeles despite playing with an injured tendon on the ring finger of his shooting hand. Blake Griffin added 20 points and 18 rebounds, and Baron Davis had 16 points.



Charlotte Bobcats' Gerald Henderson (15) reacts after making a basket late in the second half of the Bobcats' 100-97 win in over the Philadelphia 76ers in an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011.

*Associated Press*

**In other NBA games** Chicago 82, Dallas 77; it was Charlotte 100, and Portland 108, L.A. Philadelphia 97; Clippers 93. □



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late show:	11:45			late show:	11:30		
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matinee:	12:00	PG-13		matinee:	11:45	PG-13	
late show:				late show:			
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<b>TANGLED</b>				<b>TANGLED</b>			
daily:		PG		daily:	4:00	PG	
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<b>GULLIVER'S TRAVEL</b>				<b>TRON LEGACY 3D</b>			
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late show:				late show:	12:00		
<b>LITTLE FOCKERS</b>				<b>TRUE GRIT</b>			
daily:	4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15	PG-13		daily:	4:30 - 7:00 - 9:45		
matinee:	12:00 - 2:30	PG-13		matinee:	2:00	PG-13	
late show:	11:30			late show:	12:15		
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<b>HEREAFTER</b>							
daily:	5:30 - 8:30						
matinee:	12:00 - 2:45	PG-13					
late show:	11:15						
<b>TRON LEGACY 3D</b>							
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matinee:							
late show:	11:45	PG-13					

Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat

# Judge: Former players to testify at Bonds trial



Former baseball player Barry Bonds walks into a federal courthouse in San Francisco, Friday, Jan. 21, 2011.

By PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Some of Barry Bonds' former teammates, along with other retired Major League Baseball players and perhaps current player Jason Giambi, will have to testify at the slugger's upcoming perjury trial, a federal judge said Friday. Lawyers for Bonds argued at a hearing before U.S. District Court Judge Susan Illston that the players should be excluded because of their ties to Bonds' former trainer Greg Anderson, who is refusing to

testify against the slugger.

Illston previously barred much of the evidence relating to Anderson because of his willingness to go to prison on contempt charges rather than testify at the trial set to start March 21.

Without his testimony, it could be impossible to prove that urine samples that purportedly tested positive for steroids had been collected from Bonds by Anderson.

Dressed in a dark suit and slimmed down from his San Francisco Giants playing days, Bonds sat attentively at

his lawyers' table in front of the judge during the hearing. Illston also said she would consider on a case-by-case basis whether to exclude other evidence seized from Anderson's home and elsewhere that prosecutors want to show the jury.

That includes a trove of documents created by Anderson that prosecutors say connect Bonds to blood and urine tests conducted at the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, which was at the center of a sports doping ring broken up by federal investigators.

The judge said prosecutors could call the athletes to testify about their relationships with Anderson, who supplied many of them with steroids and whom the government claims supplied Bonds with performance-enhancing drugs.

Bonds, 46, has pleaded not guilty to 10 counts of perjury and an obstruction charge after telling a grand jury in December 2003 that he never knowingly took steroids. Bonds testified that

Anderson supplied him with all kinds of substances, but he assumed they were all legal supplements.

Some players were expected to testify that Anderson supplied them with drugs and informed clients the substances were illegal steroids. Prosecutors hope the testimony will persuade jurors that Bonds had to have known that Anderson was giving him illicit performance enhancers. "Anderson provided them with detailed instructions and explained to them these were steroids," federal prosecutor Matt Parrella told the judge.

One of Bonds' six attorneys, Dennis Riordan, sought to bar the athletes' testimony. He argued unsuccessfully that the government was attempting to win the case with "guilt by association."

On the prosecution witness list are Giambi and retired players Marvin Benard, Jeremy Giambi (Jason's brother), Armando Rios, Benito Santiago, Bobby Estallela, Randy Velarde and retired football player Larry Izzo.

The judge said she may stop the parade of players from taking the witness stand if their testimony begins to sound the same.

The players' dealings with Anderson date back a decade or more, which legal experts said could further hobble prosecutors already set back by the exclusion of the tests tied to Anderson.

"We all struggle with recalling what happened a week ago," said Vermont Law School professor Michael McCann, a sports law expert. "It happened so long ago, and these witnesses are probably going to have a difficult time recalling everything."

The judge ordered Anderson to appear in court sometime before the trial starts to reiterate his refusal to testify. Anderson will be jailed for the length of the trial, which could last a month. Anderson already served a little more than a year on contempt charged after he refused to testify before the grand jury investigating Bonds for perjury.

Anderson pleaded guilty to steroids distribution and money laundering in 2005 and served three months in prison.

"He remains resolute in his position," said Mark Geragos, Anderson's lawyer.

Both sides will return to court Feb. 11 to wrangle over whether a secretly recorded conversation between Anderson and Bonds' former business partner Steve Hoskins should be played for the jury.

Hoskins made the recording in front of the slugger's locker in San Francisco in March 2003. In that conversation, Anderson discusses how he is helping Bonds avoid infections by injecting him in different parts of his buttocks rather than in one spot.

Bonds testified before the grand jury that no one but his doctor ever injected him.



This May 29, 2010, file photo shows Toronto Blue Jays center fielder Vernon Wells smiling after hitting a game-winning solo home run against the Baltimore Orioles during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Toronto.

Associated Press

By BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

The Los Angeles Angels acquired All-Star center fielder Vernon Wells from Toronto on Friday night, giving them the big bat they wanted to add this winter.

The Blue Jays shipped their high-priced fixture to the

## Angels acquire All-Star CF Vernon Wells from Jays

Angels for catcher Mike Napoli and outfielder Juan Rivera in one of baseball's biggest trades this offseason. The teams did not say whether the Blue Jays would also send cash to the Angels to help offset Wells' contract. He has four years and \$86 million left on the \$126 million, seven-year deal he signed with Toronto.

That deal included a no-trade clause, which Wells waived to join the Angels.

"Vernon is a player we have admired for some time," Los Angeles general manager Tony Reagins said. "He is a tremendous person and the type of player that will impact our club immediately, both on offense and defense."

After winning three straight AL West titles and five of six, the Angels slid to 80-82 last season. They had hoped

to add either outfielder Carl Crawford or third baseman Adrian Beltre this offseason, but missed out on both expensive free agents.

The 32-year-old Wells is a three-time All-Star who hit .273 with 31 home runs and 88 RBIs last season. He made his major league debut with Toronto in 1999 and quickly became one of baseball's most promising players. Nagged by injuries, Wells dipped in 2009 before a bounce-back season. He likely will take over in center field for the Angels, who moved perennial Gold Glove winner Torii Hunter to right last season to make room for speedy Peter Bourjos.

The Angels have depth at catcher and should get slugger Kendry Morales back next season after he missed most of 2010 with a broken leg.

Toronto, out of the playoffs

since winning its second straight World Series title in 1993, had been shopping Wells in an effort to free up some payroll. The 29-year-old Napoli hit .238 with 26 homers and 68 RBIs last season, often filling in at first base for Morales.

Napoli ranked among the AL leaders with one home run per 17.4 at-bats. He has hit at least 20 homers in three straight years. He could help give Toronto time to break in rookie catcher J.P. Arencibia, the MVP of the Pacific Coast League last season.

Napoli had filed for salary arbitration, asking for \$6.1 million while the Angels offered \$5.3 million.

The 32-year-old Rivera hit .252 with 15 home runs and 52 RBIs last season. He is due to make \$5.25 million this year.

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## NFL Preview

## Packers, Steelers favored to reach Super Bowl

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Green Bay Packers go to Soldier Field favored to beat the Chicago Bears on Sunday in their first NFL playoffs match since 1941 thanks to impressive results in the last month.

With wins over the New York Giants and Bears at Lambeau Field to get into the playoffs, then victories at the Philadelphia Eagles and Atlanta Falcons in the playoffs, Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers is performing at a championship level, and he has the surrounding talent to keep this surge going.

This will be the 182nd meeting between the Packers and Bears in their 90-year rivalry, and none more anticipated than this one for the NFC Championship. Only once before have they met in the playoffs and that was a week after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, when the Bears beat the Packers at baseball's Wrigley Field.

The AFC Championship follows at Heinz Field where the New York Jets, after disposing of Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts, then Tom Brady and the New England Patriots, try for the trifecta of Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks against Ben Roethlisberger and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Green Bay nearly won at Soldier Field in September, and was stymied by a team-record 18 penalties as much as anything. The Packers have been far more efficient recently, with Rodgers regularly finding his impressive receiving corps, led by Greg Jennings, Donald Driver and James Jones. They will present matchup problems

for Chicago's cornerbacks.

Green Bay's defense also has become formidable, just as dominating as Chicago's can be.

The Bears have playmakers Brian Urlacher, Lance Briggs, Julius Peppers and Israel Idonije. The Packers counter with Clay Matthews, Charles Woodson, Tramon Williams and B.J. Raji.

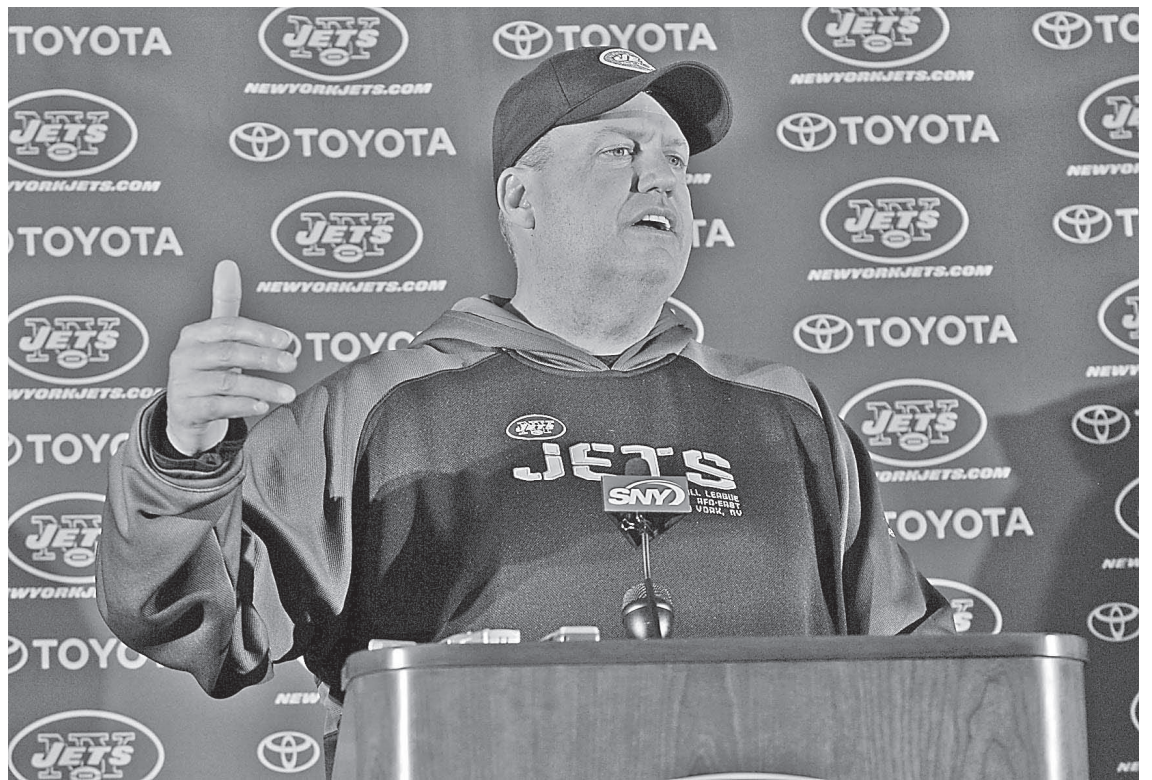
"It's probably the best defense we've played to date, just fundamentally sound in the way they're playing," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. Bears cornerback Charles Tillman said, "Right now, the best thing we can do is out-execute their defense."

Perhaps the Bears' difference-maker will be the dynamic Devin Hester. The record-setting kick returner has a strong history in the postseason, and it would be wise for the Packers to avoid kicking his way.

The Bears haven't been to the Super Bowl since 2006, when they lost to Indianapolis. Green Bay last appeared in the big game in 1998, losing their title to Denver.

Rex Ryan might be bombastic, but in his two seasons as Jets coach he also has been brilliant, leading them to four road playoff victories in five attempts. Roethlisberger made note of that this week, but veteran Steelers receiver Hines Ward mentioned that his quarterback gets away from the rush better and stays up longer when hit than Manning or Brady did against the Jets this month.

Still, the Steelers want to be a run-first offense and need to prosper on the ground to beat the Jets. New York cornerbacks Darrelle Revis and Antonio Cromartie match up well against Pittsburgh's



New York Jets head coach Rex Ryan gestures during a news conference Friday, Jan. 21, 2011 in Florham Park, N.J. The Jets will face the Pittsburgh Steelers Sunday in the AFC Championship game.

wideouts, although Ward has a penchant for big plays in the biggest games. The Steelers concede less yards than the Jets, particularly against the run. That means Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez must be as effective as he was last week in the upset of New England, against which he threw for three touchdowns. One of those was to Santonio Holmes, the hero of the Steelers' Super Bowl win two years ago and now the Jets' game-breaking receiver.

"Your mindset has to be you are going to be the guy to make that play," Holmes says. New York won 22-17 at Heinz Field in December, a game that two key Steelers missed. Star safety Troy Polamalu and tight end Heath Miller are back, and the Jets can struggle down the middle covering tight ends.

Polamalu's unpredictability — he has enough freedom to pop up anywhere — makes it that much more difficult to avoid him.

"There isn't anyone in the league that can cover space like Troy can," Steelers defensive end Brett Keisel said. "There isn't anyone that has a feel for the game, I think, like Troy has. You don't see anyone jumping over on

fourth-and-1 situations on a quarterback sneak, timing the blitz perfectly to where they snap the ball, and he is over there making the play.

"That's the biggest thing: You know you are going to get a

couple of special plays from that guy, especially when it comes around to playoff time. We look forward to seeing some spectacular moves from Mr. Polamalu."

The Jets don't. □

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NHL Roundup

# Brodeur has 23 saves to shut out depleted Pens



New Jersey Devils right wing Nick Palmieri (32) and Pittsburgh Penguins defenseman Zbynek Michalek, of the Czech Republic, compete for the puck during the third period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011, in Newark, N.J. The Devils won 2-0.

Associated Press

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Martin Brodeur and the New Jersey Devils took advantage of the absence of Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin to shut out the Pittsburgh Penguins 2-0 on

Thursday. Brodeur had a relatively easy night, stopping 23 shots in posting his fourth shutout of the season and the NHL regular-season record 114th of his career.

## BEAR PACKERS

### Continued from Page B1

All of this sniping, fun or otherwise, makes sense since the NFL's oldest rivalry has had 92 years to simmer. Vince Lombardi, Don Hutson, Bart Starr, Ray Nitschke, Bronko Nagurski, Dick Butkus, Mike Ditka and Walter Payton — all of those names and more add to the rich history, but so does the relationship between the loyal fans in the neighboring states of Wisconsin (Green Bay) and Illinois (Chicago). John Cochara has been hearing from his so-called friends who decided he was celebrating a Packers win over the Bears a little too much in 1995 and duct-taped him to a stop sign. "They're saying, 'You better watch out, there are a lot of stop signs out there,'" said Cochara, whose punishment outside a bar just south of the Wisconsin-Illinois state line included a sign over his head that read "Packer Fan." The Super Bowl Shuffle

video by the 1985-86 Bears is getting tens of thousands of fresh clicks on YouTube. At least one Chicago TV station got texts imploring them to ask Packers fans to swear off cheese or, at least cheeseheads, cheese ties and, honestly, cheese bras. A sign outside the Crystal Lake Rib House not far from the Wisconsin line warns that prices for Packers fans are twice the menu listing. "They say, 'We really don't have to pay double, do we?'" said owner Dave Faccone, who insists it's a joke. Still, some Bears fans have chimed in. "I got a text saying, 'You big troublemaker, charging them double. It should be triple,'" he said. Mike Pyle, who played center for the Bears for nine years, including the 1963 championship season, recalled how his coach and owner of the Bears, George Halas, brought a message over to Packers coach Lombardi before a game.

Brian Rolston and rookie Nick Palmieri scored for the Devils, who have points in a season-high five straight games (4-0-1). The loss snapped the Penguins' three-game winning streak.

The Penguins didn't offer much resistance with Crosby and Malkin sidelined in the same regular-season game for the first time since the 2006-07 season.

## Flyers 6, Senators 2

At Philadelphia, Mike Richards scored twice and Chris Pronger had an assist in his return from a broken foot as Philadelphia beat Ottawa in a fight-filled game.

The Flyers lead the NHL with 31 wins and the Eastern Conference with 67 points.

Daniel Briere, Scott Hartnell, James van Riemsdyk and Andrej Meszaros also scored for Philadelphia.

Milan Michalek and Nick Foligno scored for Ottawa.

## Capitals 2, Islanders 1

At Uniondale, New York, Alex Ovechkin assisted on goals by Jason Chimera and Nicklas Backstrom, and rookie Braden Holtby made 24 saves in his

return from the minors to lift Washington past the New York Islanders.

Michael Grabner scored for New York.

## Sharks 2, Canucks 1, SO

At Vancouver, British Columbia, Joe Pavelski scored the only shootout goal and San Jose's Antti Niemi stopped all three Vancouver shooters.

After San Jose survived defenseman Dan Boyle's overtime penalty for a gloved punch to Ryan Kesler's face, Pavelski fired a low shot past Luongo's blocker in the second round of the shootout. Niemi, who made 36 saves through overtime, stopped Mason Raymond and Daniel Sedin before poke-checking Kesler in the final round to seal the victory.

At St. Louis, Darren Helm scored at 1:51 of overtime for Detroit and Jimmy Howard stopped 26 shots in his return after missing two games because of a bruised right kneecap.

Patrick Eaves, Todd Bertuzzi and Jakub Kindl — with his first NHL goal — scored in regulation for Detroit. The

Red Wings blew a three-goal lead before rebounding to end a three-game road losing streak.

T.J. Oshie, Patrik Berglund and David Backes scored for St. Louis.

At Toronto, Jean-Sebastien Giguere made 26 saves against his former Anaheim teammates and Mikhail Grabovski scored twice in Toronto's win.

Clarke MacArthur added a goal and two assists and Carl Gunnarsson and Tyler Bozak also scored to help the Maple Leafs rebound from a 7-0 road loss to the New York Rangers on Wednesday night.

Dan Sexton and Brandon McMillan scored for Anaheim.

**In other NHL games it was Tampa Bay 3, Atlanta 2, SO; San Jose 2, Vancouver 1, SO; Buffalo 4, Boston 2; Toronto 5, Anaheim 2; New Jersey 2, Pittsburgh 0; Washington 2, N.Y. Islanders 1; Philadelphia 6, Ottawa 2; Carolina 4, N.Y. Rangers 1; Detroit 4, St. Louis 3, OT; Nashville 5, Colorado 1; Dallas 4, Edmonton 2; and Phoenix 2, Los Angeles 0.** □



In this Sept. 27, 2010, photo, Green Bay Packers and Chicago Bears fans wait for an NFL football game between the teams in Chicago. The teams are scheduled to play for the third time this season when the Bears host the Packers on Sunday for the NFC championship.

Associated Press

the frosting. "There would be nothing sweeter than to watch the Packers take that George Halas trophy at Soldier Field," said John O'Neill, whose outfit at Packers games is a green bishop's costume and mitre, with Lombardi's face on it. He's appropriately known as St. Vince.

"For guys who have followed

the Bears all their life and truly hate the Packers, yeah, this is their Super Bowl," said Mark Foster, 54, who plans to erect a 5-foot (1.5-meter) inflatable Bears helmet outside his home in Lansing, south of Chicago. "We can lose 50 to nothing in the Super Bowl to Pittsburgh or the Jets, but if we beat the Packers, who cares?" □

# Venus Williams early injury pullout from third round

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Venus Williams lasted just seven points in her third-round match Friday at the Australian Open, forced to withdraw due to injury from a Grand Slam singles match for the first time in her career.

After losing the first game to Andrea Petkovic of Germany and trailing in the second, Williams stretched to her right to return a serve, hit the ball and then cried out in pain, clutching toward her stomach on her right side. It was soon clear that she couldn't continue.

"Obviously I just couldn't play," Williams said. "I couldn't move, it was too painful."

Her right thigh was already heavily bandaged from an injury she sustained in the first set of her second-round match Wednesday, when she beat Sandra Zahlavova in three sets.

Afterward, Williams said the injury was in her "psoas" muscle, which flexes the hip and spinal column.

"The last 48 hours, I just did as much pain management as I could," she said. "A lot of times when you play, you get that adrenalin and that blocks pain. I just didn't get enough of that today. I was hoping for some magic that I could recover."

Williams, 30, waved to the Rod Laver Arena crowd and appeared to be on the verge of tears as she walked off the court. Her younger sister, defending champion Serena, didn't even make it to Melbourne Park because of a foot injury.

"It's super disappointing because this is just not how I envisioned my Australian Open being," Venus Williams said. "But I have peace of mind that I really gave more than my best to be out there."

"I'm just going to focus obviously on getting healthy and coming back, because I love tennis and I've got a lot of great tennis in me. I love my job, so no end in sight."

Petkovic was surprised by the sudden end to the match.

"I feel very weird about how the things went," said Petkovic. "It's a pity, and I feel very sorry. I just hope she gets better — she's such a great champion."

Justine Henin departed the tournament a lot sooner than she expected, too, but No. 1-seeded Caroline Wozniacki is still around, providing entertainment on and off the court.

Henin, the 2010 finalist, was beaten by two-time Grand Slam winner Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-4, 7-6 (8) in a mild third-round upset, while Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, Andy Roddick and Maria Sharapova all advanced. Wozniacki provided as much fanfare in her post-match media conference as she did during her 6-4, 6-3 win over Dominika Cibulkova.

Pretending to be irritated at being considered "boring" by some critics, she came prepared with a monologue to answer any question that might be asked about the match, and then some.

"I always gave the same answers," Wozniacki said. "I find it quite funny because I always get the same questions, so I'm just going to start with the answer."

What transpired was one of the funniest schticks ever to grace the tiered news conference room under Rod Laver Arena. Once she got the usual match comments out of the way, Wozniacki had a chance to be asked about global warming, her prowess on the piano, the game of cricket and what she's looking for in a boyfriend.

"Hopefully this was a little bit different than usual, and now you can maybe give me some questions that are a little bit more interesting," the 20-year-old Wozniacki said.

Henin and Kuznetsova didn't have much fun following Wozniacki on the court. Kuznetsova twice had chances to serve out the match but Henin broke her both times.

Henin was only weeks into a comeback from a career break

from the tour when she lost the final last year to Serena Williams, the third time in four appearances that she'd reached the championship match at Melbourne. Her comeback season was derailed when she injured her right elbow at Wimbledon and didn't play again in 2010.

"There's no excuse, even if I know I'm not at 100 percent, she was better than me today," Henin said in remarks translated from French. "I made way too many errors." It was Henin's first loss in a major to Kuznetsova, the former French and U.S. Open champion, and her worst run at a Grand Slam event since Wimbledon in 2005.

Sharapova, who won the 2008 Australian women's title, struggled to a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 win over Julia Goerges of Germany. French Open champion Francesca Schiavone of Italy also won, beating Monica Niculescu of Romania 6-0, 7-6 (2).

No. 9 Li Na of China, who



Venus Williams of the U.S. leaves Rod Laver Arena after she withdrew from her third round match against Germany's Andrea Petkovic injured at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 21, 2011.

Associated Press

reached the semifinals last year Serena Williams, advanced before losing in two tiebreaker 6-2, 6-1 over Barbora sets to eventual champion Zahlavova Strycova. □

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# Fast and furious: Hitting with Rafa and Roger

JOCELYN GECKER

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Ever wonder what it's like to play against Rafael Nadal or Roger Federer?

It's a fast-paced, mentally draining, physically exhausting, intimidating process that typically results in being worn down to submission. The little yellow ball zooms forward, twisting in a swish of speed and power, and the goal is to hit it back — again and again and again.

Nothing quite prepares even the pros for playing Rafa and Roger. Just ask their rivals.

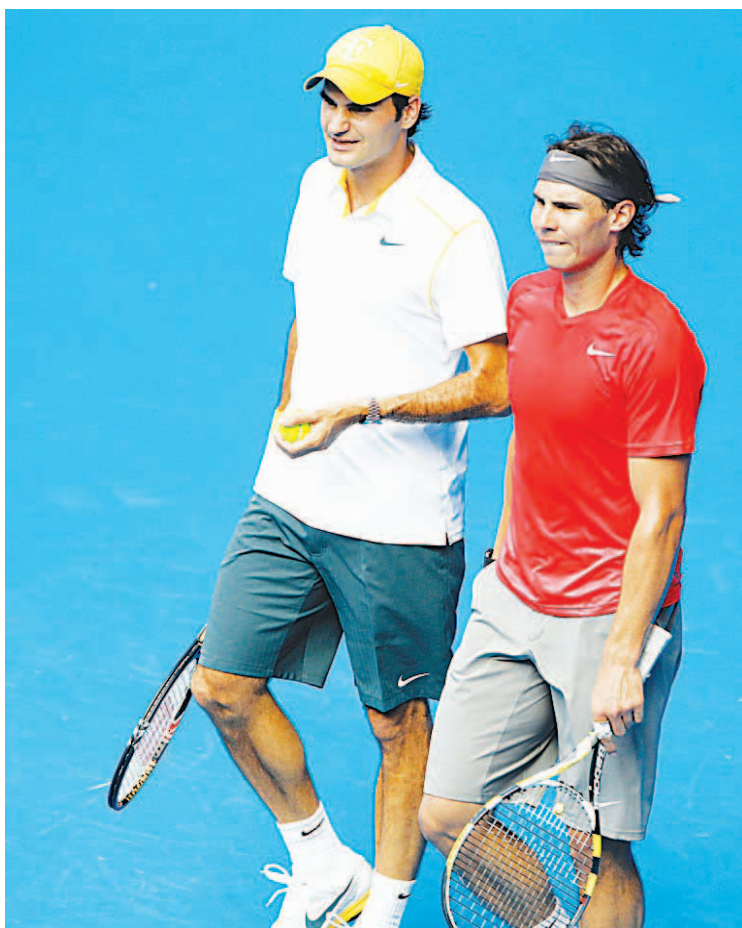
Federer's opponent Friday was 30-year-old Xavier Malisse, a Belgian who has known the Swiss star since they were 12. They both turned pro in 1998. Malisse never quite became a household name, while Federer went on to win 16 Grand Slam titles and is commonly called one of the greatest players of all time.

"He's extraordinary," Malisse said in an interview after losing their third-round match, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1. Like most players who lose to Federer, he was disappointed but reverential. "His style was like that in the beginning, when he was 12. But when you see how it evolved — it's another world."

"When he hits the ball, there's an incredible speed. You're always on the defensive. You have to adapt to each point but you don't have time," said Malisse, who is ranked 45th from a career high of No. 19. "He's a perfect player."

The 29-year-old Federer exudes calm on the court and an effortless grace, which belies the intense power of his shots and his ability to usually outthink and outmaneuver opponents by anticipating their next move.

Federer often says that after all these years he still enjoys tennis, and his enjoyment is apparent on the court. He is not tortured by the pressure of living up to his reputation. After Friday's match, he was asked what keeps him excited about tennis and Federer said he loves playing on center courts around the world. "It takes a lot of hard work to



**Switzerland's Roger Federer and Spain's Rafael Nadal, right, play together during a charity tennis event, "Rally for Relief" on Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011. The event is being held to raise money for the flood disaster that has caused 26 deaths in Australia's northeast since late November, with 14 others are missing, most of them from a flash flood that hit towns west of Brisbane last Monday.**

Associated Press

get there," said Federer, who has a staggering record of 755 wins during his career and 177 losses. "When you're there, you want to stay there."

Nadal's style is different. The 24-year-old Spaniard is muscular, intense and phenomenally athletic. He relentlessly chases down balls and pounds them back with viscous topspin. Since Nadal turned pro in 2001, he has won 477 matches and lost 102. He owns nine Grand Slam singles trophies.

Together, Federer and Nadal have monopolized the No. 1 and No. 2 year-end rankings since 2004. Nadal is currently in the top spot and trying to complete a "Rafa Slam" by winning his fourth Grand Slam in a row. Federer is bidding to become the second man in history to win five Australian Opens. A Federer-Nadal matchup in Melbourne could only happen in the final. Frenchman Gilles Simon gave Federer his biggest scare of the tournament so far, pushing him to five demanding

sets in the previous round.

Simon has been ranked as high as No. 6. He is one of only three men on the tour — beside Nadal and Andy Murray — with a winning record against the Swiss great but he said Federer remains an enigma to him.

Simon described the experience of playing against Federer as "a little bit strange."

"You look at the ball, and you have the impression that you can't do anything in the moment," he said, adding that he felt like he was running nonstop for three hours, while Federer was still speedy at the end. "I feel like he's in control, he can do whatever he wants."

No. 5 Andy Murray holds an 8-to-6 edge over Federer but has never beaten him at a Grand Slam, including last year's Australian Open final. He makes it a point to study Federer and Nadal.

"If they're on TV and you're in the hotel, you'll definitely sit and watch some. You can learn a lot from those guys," Murray said. □



**Gary Woodland tips to cap on the 18th hole of the Nicklaus Private course at PGA West during the third round of the Bob Hope Classic PGA golf tournament in La Quinta, Calif., Friday, Jan. 21, 2011.**

Associated Press

## Woodland, Vegas share lead at Hope Classic

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LA QUINTA, California (AP) — Gary Woodland shot an 8-under 64 on Friday to join Jhonattan Vegas in the lead after three rounds at the Bob Hope Classic.

Vegas maintained his steady play in his fifth PGA Tour event with a 67 at the Silver Rock course. The Venezuelan rookie has a share of the lead for the second straight day in the 90-hole, four-course tournament.

Woodland and Vegas are among the longest hitters off the tee in the Hope field, yet Woodland barely touched his driver on the friendly Nicklaus course while carding the best round of his career in relation to par.

Australia's Greg Chalmers (65) was a stroke back at 17-under 199, while Scotland's Martin Laird was 16 under after a bogey-free 64. Sixteen players were within five shots of the lead, including Matt Kuchar (13 under after a 67) and second-round co-leader Boo Weekley, also 13 under after a 72 at Silver Rock. Woodland made five straight birdies on the front nine at the Nicklaus Private course, with only a missed 10-foot putt keeping him from stringing together seven in a row. He added three birdies on the back nine to claim his first lead after any round in 28 PGA Tour events while putting up the best 54-hole score of his career.

Not bad for a player who didn't get serious about golf until putting his college basketball dreams to rest.

"I learned how to play the game over the last year and a half," Woodland said. "I've got great people around me, great people mentoring me, and I'm starting to get there. I'm not anywhere close to where I want to be, but I'm on that road right now."

After a year playing basketball at Washburn University, Woodland transferred to Kansas University in 2003 to get serious about golf. But as a multisport athlete growing up, he embraced the grip-it-and-rip-it school of golf until learning how to harness his athleticism on tour.

"There's a lot of guys out here that know how to play this game," Woodland said. "I could probably beat them on the basketball court, but out here, for a year and a half, I was getting my butt kicked. ... There's so much up-and-down in other sports. You're never going to win all the time, so I learned how to play through adversity." Woodland still hasn't fully recovered from surgery during his rookie season in August 2009 to repair a torn labrum in his left shoulder, a product of cumulative wear dating to his basketball days. He used cortisone to keep playing through the pain until his doctors "told me I couldn't have it any more." □

# Google turns Page on Schmidt, names co-founder CEO

SAN FRANCISCO – When Google Inc. went public in 2004, the three men running the company promised each other they would remain a ruling triumvirate for at least 20 more years.

Although their commitment to work together until 2024 hasn't changed, Google CEO Eric Schmidt and company co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin are being reassigned in an attempt to recapture the free-wheeling spirit of the company's youth. The surprise shake-up announced late Thursday will return Page, 37, to the CEO job he filled in Google's early days. The move ends Schmidt's decade-long reign in a position that also stamped

him as the "adult supervisor" of a company that once seemed like a romper room filled with technological wunderkinds.

Schmidt, 55, will stay on as executive chairman. The new role turns him into Page's consigliere as well as a liaison for Google's business partners and government officials.

Brin, also 37, will be freed up to work on pet projects aimed at expanding Google's empire. The changes take effect April 4, leaving the current hierarchy intact through the current quarter.

Google can only hope the new pecking order pans out as well as the old chain of command has. The formula turned Google's search engine into a moneymaking machine,

with the latest reminder of the company's prosperity coming Thursday with the announcement that it earned \$2.5 billion in the fourth quarter the most for any three-month period in its 12-year history.

Page started out as Google's CEO when he and Brin started the business in a Silicon Valley garage and kept the top job until the venture capitalists backing the company insisted on bringing in a new leader. That led to the 2001 hiring of Schmidt, a professorial engineer who was previously chief technology officer at Sun Microsystems Inc. and CEO of Novell Inc., both much bigger than Google at the time. After initially resisting Google's overtures, Schmidt bonded with Page and Brin to form a brain trust that proceeded to build the Internet's main gateway and most powerful company.

Google now boasts a market value of more than \$200 billion, a success story that has placed Page, Brin and Schmidt among the world's wealthiest people. The three men are Google's largest individual shareholders, stakes that turned them all into multibillionaires.

But as Google has grown into a company with more than 24,000 employees, its decision-making increasingly has bogged down into a bureaucracy. The managerial constipation threatened to put Google at a competitive disadvantage as younger, more nimble Internet services such as Facebook pounce on new trends to lure away users and advertisers. At Facebook, 26-year-old founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg calls the shots in an entrepreneurial culture that has enticed dozens of engineers to leave Google to work for the social networking company.

"My goal is to run Google at the pace and with the soul and passion of a startup," Page said in a Thursday interview. "I think I will have time to do that given the way we have split up our responsibilities." Schmidt concurred in the same interview, saying it had

started to become clear the company needed to be run more crisply.

"I am not as concerned about the titles as I am winning," Schmidt said. "I am quite certain that this change will result in faster decision making and better value for the shareholders."

Google's stockholders have had little to complain about, not that it would have made a major difference because Schmidt, Page and Brin combined own a controlling stake in the company. Google is coming off a year in which its earnings climbed 30 percent to \$8.5 billion and, although its stock price remains below its all-time high reached in 2007, it has more than doubled from its lows during the recession. Google shares rose \$8.23, or 1.3 percent, to \$635 in extended trading after Thursday's announcement. In the regular session earlier, the stock fell \$4.98, or 0.8 percent, to close at \$626.77.

The stock peaked at \$747 before the recession. Although Schmidt has publicly acknowledged bickering with Page and Brin through the years, the management reshuffling appears to be amicable. Both Page and Schmidt heaped praise on each other in Thursday's interview and a conference call with analysts, with Schmidt describing Google's co-founders as his "best friends." "I believe Larry is ready" to



be CEO, Schmidt said during the call. "It's time for him to have a shot at running this." Page hailed Schmidt as a "tremendous leader" whose contributions exceeded all expectations. "There is really no one else in the universe that could have accomplished what Eric has done," Page said.

Although he tried to debunk the idea in Thursday's interview, Schmidt may have been growing weary of all the attention and prosaic duties that come with running one of world's most scrutinized companies.

"I don't think Eric was pushed. I think he jumped," said Ken Auletta, author of "Googled: The End of the World As We Know It." "I think Eric is burned out."

There have been signs Schmidt would prefer doing something else.

For the first time last year, he started to sit out of Google's quarterly calls to discuss its earnings.

## Twitter Targeted With Fake Antivirus Software Scam



Twitter has been resetting passwords for accounts that started distributing links promoting fake antivirus software in an attack that used Google's Web address shortening service to conceal the links' destination.

The links, masked by Google "goo.gl" URL shortener, bounce through a series of redirect URLs before landing on a Ukrainian top-level domain that then redirects to an IP address associated with other fake antivirus software scams, wrote Nicolas Brulez of Kaspersky Lab on a company blog.

Victims landing on the fake antivirus software page are prompted to scan their computer. If they approve the scan, the page asks if they want to remove threats from their computer: doing so starts the download of a bogus security program called "Security Shield."

Fake antivirus programs remain a pervasive problem on the Internet, with hundreds of variations. The applications target Windows users, and the programs are often installed by exploiting vulnerabilities in a computer's software. Once installed, the applications badger users to pay for a full version of the program. Many of the programs are totally ineffective at actually removing malware from a computer.

Del Harvey, head of Twitter's Trust and Safety Team, wrote on her Twitter account that "we're working to remove the malware links and reset passwords on compromised accounts."

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# Wagering on a wedding? Britons say you bet



LONDON – Two of the favorite pastimes in Britain royal-watching and betting are morphing into one raucous market centered on the royal wedding.

Prince William and Kate Middleton aren't even married yet that will take place April 29 but some Britons are already betting they will end up getting divorced.

The odds are unlikely, the topic is disrespectful but when two people disagree on a subject, it's time to lay some money down. "There's a real tradition of betting on what the royals will do next," said Darren Haines, a spokesman for bookmaker Paddy Power. "The U.K. has a strange fascination with the royals."

One of the most popular wagers for the past several years has been on if, when and where Kate and Wills would marry. After news of their engagement broke in November, the when as in, what month brought in 30,000 pounds (\$48,000) worth of bets for Ladbrokes, spokesman Alex Donohue said. The where now confirmed as Westminster Abbey drew about 15,000 pounds (\$24,000) worth of wagers for the betting firm.

With those questions answered, bookmakers are looking to capitalize on the royal wedding mania by adding novelty bets before more details emerge. The market is small now, but expected to swell as the big day draws near.

Middleton will arrive at her wedding ceremony by car and leave by carriage, so she won't have to worry about the current odds of a Tube strike on her wedding day. Will she walk into Westminster Abbey right on time, be three minutes late, or make guests wait 11 minutes for a glimpse? How long will the train of her dress be? Gamblers are invited to place bets on all the above.

Most bookmakers are running a variation of the divorce question, with almost certain odds that the couple will make it to their 10th anniversary.

London retiree Lisa Barret thinks that's an "awful idea" for a market.

"You don't gamble on something like someone's marriage," the 55-year-old said while out shopping for groceries in London. Bookmakers beg to differ and are eagerly considering suggestions for additions to the "wedding special" options as

April 29 approaches. It might seem that nothing is off limits yet even bookmakers draw the line somewhere rejecting wagering on the likelihood of a terrorist act on the day of the ceremony.

"We don't look to bet on anything that's distasteful so we refused that request," Haines explained. "This is all about fun." The average wager 3.5 pounds (\$5.50) reflects that gamblers are betting money they don't mind losing, a spokesman for bookmaker William Hill said.

"It's largely people speculating, more for fun and a conversation piece than those who are genuinely expecting to make money," said Rupert Adams.

London accountant Rana Theva is not surprised by the betting fervor.

"People will place bets on just about anything," the 34-year-old said. The 'X Factor' (singing competition), horses, lotteries. So why not the wedding?"

William Hill is looking to add 3 or 4 new wedding specials a week. Bets are still open on the location of William's stag party and who his bachelor brother Prince Harry will take to the wedding as his date.

But since they never know when the palace or the tabloids will spill the beans, betting is time-sensitive. Wedding-special markets need constant review because, unlike a football or rugby match, decisions are already in the works.

Betting on the couple's honeymoon destination closed down at William Hill on Jan. 10 after an attempted wager of 5,000 pounds (\$8,000) in favor of Kenya by a new account raised red flags.

"Nobody would risk 5,000 pounds unless they knew already that they were definitely going to go to Kenya," Adams said. "Whether it was someone from Kenya a (real) estate agent ... who knows? We were uncomfortable to bet on it."

The market is "pretty quiet" so far, he said. William Hill has seen about 1,750 wedding-related bets worth about 27,883 pounds (\$44,200) placed since news of the engagement.

By comparison, more than 300,000 pounds (\$476,000) worth of bets were placed during the final episode of Britain's beloved "X Factor." Still, Adams said he expects volume to ramp up heavily right before the wedding.

"The vast majority of people placing a bet want to place a bet and get a result within a short period of time," he explained. "They'll probably wait until the last minute."

After all, the public won't know until at least April 29 if James Blunt's "You're Beautiful" the odds-on favorite for the couple's first dance was in fact chosen.

Bookmakers' core client base typically male, betting on sports such as horse and dog racing might not know the difference between Blunt's ballad and Bryan Adam's "Everything I Do," which is also on offer.

But the royal wedding market gives the country's betting houses a rare chance to draw in female customers. □

"Reality TV and royal wedding (bets) appeal to women because it's what they read about, it's what they're interested in," Paddy Power's Haines said.

Walking into a Ladbrokes shop in central London, Will Tanner called the wedding-special market "absolutely barking mad."

"Why would I want to bet on shoes and dresses?" the 47-year-old health worker said. "It's a little too girly for me, a little too soft. Not like horses."



'Celebrity Autobiography' roasts bad star books

NEW YORK – What's more delicious than reading one of those bizarrely self-centered, poorly written autobiographies by a celebrity? The answer may be adding more stars: Get another celebrity to read it aloud.

That's the premise behind "Celebrity Autobiography," a riotous, slightly subversive show with a rotating lineup of famous people who read from the books of such dabbling authors as Justin Bieber, Burt Reynolds, Star Jones, Geraldo Rivera and Tiger Woods.

Though some participants take a few creative liberties, for the most part there are no impersonations, props or costumes. Just the carefully selected indulgent words spoken aloud, as if anyone cares about Suzanne Somers' poetry or what order Joan London puts on her clothes in the morning.

"You just can't believe that somebody wrote this," says "Saturday Night Live" star Rachel Dratch, who has done several "Celebrity Autobiography" shows.

Or as Michael Urie, of "Ugly Betty" fame, says: "You can send a monkey out there and it'll be funny."

The show, staged once a month in London, Los Angeles and New York, is also currently on the road, with upcoming gigs and different stars appearing in Charlotte, N.C., from Jan. 25-30, Cleveland from Feb. 3-6 and March 10-13; Atlanta on Feb. 19; and Wausau, Wis. on Feb. 25.

It's all the brainchild of Eugene Pack, an Emmy Award-nominated writer, producer, actor and playwright who came across the book "Vanna





# Bank of America posts loss on mortgage problems

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina – Bank of America Corp, the largest U.S. bank by assets, reported a second straight quarterly loss after writing down the value of its limping mortgage business. Bank of America's Merrill Lynch businesses including retail brokerage and investment banking were profitable but did not make enough money to overcome the bank's massive losses from mortgages.

As the financial crisis was ramping up, then Chief Executive Kenneth Lewis bought Countrywide Financial Inc for \$4.2 billion. Current CEO Brian Moynihan is still coping with the aftermath.

In the fourth quarter, the bank took a writedown of \$2 billion to recognize the declining value of Countrywide. The bank also set aside \$4.1 billion for legal costs linked to home loans it is buying back from investors, or is likely to buy back.

"Countrywide is still hurting them and it will continue to. It's like a tooth being pulled -- it's only going to feel good when it's done," said Matt McCormick, portfolio manager at Bahl & Gaynor Investment Counsel Inc in Cincinnati, which does not own Bank of America shares. Bank of America's home loan business has lost more than \$12 billion since the beginning of 2009. Chief Financial Officer Charles Noski said on a conference call that the bank may have to set aside another \$7 billion to \$10 billion to cover legal settlements with mortgage investors.

CEO Moynihan, speaking on financial news network CNBC, said the U.S. housing market would continue to bump along the bottom, and the banking industry would be dealing with related problems for years to come.

Mortgages are hurting the bank, but financial regulation could also weigh on future results, bank officials said. Noski said a new law limiting the fees that big banks can charge merchants for processing debit card transactions could cost Bank of America about \$1 billion of revenue starting in the second half of 2011.

The bank has suffered from its Countrywide purchase, but its acquisition of Merrill Lynch has helped. Bank of America's global banking and markets unit, combined with its global wealth and investment management arm, which includes Merrill Lynch's investment bank operations and retail brokerage, earned \$1.06 billion in the fourth quarter.

"Merrill worked out much better than you would have thought," said Mike Holland, founder of Holland & Co, which oversees more than \$4 billion of assets.

Bank of America shares were up 0.3 percent to \$14.58 in early trading.

## CHARGES WEIGH

The fourth quarter was the second straight to include large one-time charges for the bank, and pushed it to a second straight quarterly loss after two consecutive quarterly profits for first-year CEO Moynihan.

In the third quarter, the bank reported a \$10 billion writedown of its cards business due to new curbs on debit card fees banks can charge merchants.

Moynihan is trying to turn around a bank cobbled together by Lewis primarily through acquisitions over the last decade. Moynihan is a former FleetBoston executive, a bank that BofA bought in 2003.

BofA's most profitable division in the fourth quarter,

its cards unit, was built mainly by the purchase of Delaware-based credit card giant MBNA Corp in 2005 for \$35 billion. While the bank's credit costs continue to shrink nonperforming loans declined 8.6 percent from a year earlier to \$32.6 billion in the fourth quarter revenue is also declining.

Total revenue fell 11 percent to \$22.7 billion, the third straight quarterly decline.

Despite the shrinking revenue, the bank posted loan growth of 0.7 percent compared with the third quarter, rising to \$940 billion.

The bank reported a fourth-quarter shareholder loss of \$1.57 billion, or 16 cents a



share, compared with a loss of \$5.2 billion, or 60 cents a share, a year earlier.

Excluding the mortgage business writedown, the bank earned \$756 million, or 4 cents per share.

Analysts had expected

earnings of 14 cents per share, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.

The year-earlier results included a one-time charge of \$4 billion related to the Troubled Asset Relief Program. □

## GE results portend stronger economy, shares rise

BOSTON – General Electric Co reported better-than-expected quarterly earnings, helped by the recovery of its finance arm and its first rise in overall revenue since late 2008.

A rebound in demand for railroad locomotives and a rise in sales of medical imaging devices helped the largest U.S. conglomerate top Wall Street's expectations. GE also noted that orders were up 12 percent in the quarter, driving its order backlog to \$175 billion.

GE shares rose 3.6 percent and helped boost U.S. stock futures in premarket trading, as investors called the results a sign of an improving global economy. "It's the economy at large," said Perry Adams, vice president and senior portfolio manager at Huntington Private Financial Group in Traverse City, Michigan.

"If you look at developing nation growth, GDP is expected to grow 7 to 9 percent and in developed nations it's more modest but still expected to be in the 2 to 3 percent range. That reflects a growing economy and GE is well positioned for that."

"The environment continues to improve," Chief Executive Jeffrey Immelt told analysts during a conference call. "We just think the economy can get a little bit stronger everyday."

The largest U.S. conglomerate said on Friday fourth-quarter net income came to \$4.5 billion, or 42 cents per share, up from \$3 billion, or 28 cents per share, a year earlier.

Profit from continuing operations came to 36 cents per share, above the 32 cents analysts had expected, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. **REVENUE REBOUND**

Revenue rose 1 percent to \$41.38 billion, above the \$39.9 billion analysts had expected.

"The most exciting thing is the return to organic revenue growth," said Jack De Gan, chief investment officer, at Harbor Advisory Corp in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. "The last two or two and a half years, organic revenue growth has been negative, and this is the first quarter that it's flipped positive." GE's industrial organic growth, which excludes the impact of acquisitions and foreign exchange, rose 6 percent in the fourth quarter. Deutsche Bank analyst Nigel Coe called the results "arguably their best quarter since 2007." GE is viewed as a bellwether of the global economy due to the breadth and geographic reach of its operations. It competes with some of the world's largest businesses, including Germany's Siemens AG, French industrial group Alstom SA and Swiss engineering firm ABB Ltd.

GE's Immelt also noted that the company's finance unit posted a sharp improvement in the quarter, growing profit more than 10 times to \$1.06 billion.

U.S. President Barack Obama picked Immelt to head a new economic advisory panel.

GE shares rose to \$19.10 in premarket trading. The Fairfield, Connecticut-based GE recorded 10 cents per share in one-time charges, including \$500 million set aside to cover the cost of cleaning up chemicals it had dumped into New York's Hudson River more than three decades ago. That charge was offset by 10 cents per share of one-time gains, including a tax settlement.

U.S. regulators on Tuesday approved GE's plan to sell a 51 percent stake in GE's NBC Universal unit to No. 1 U.S. cable operator Comcast Corp, in a move that sets the stage for the conglomerate's eventual exit from the media business. □



# Surgeon General calls for more breastfeeding

WASHINGTON — America's chief doctor called on Americans to support breast-feeding on Thursday and outlined guidelines for mothers and communities to support that most natural nutrition system.

Studies have shown numerous benefits for babies, mothers and overall healthcare when newborns are breast-fed for the recommended minimum of six months.

Surgeon General Regina Benjamin issued a report on Thursday advocating mothers breast-feed their children.

"Many barriers exist for mothers who want to breast-feed," Benjamin said in a statement accompanying the report.

"They shouldn't have to go it alone. Whether you're a clinician, a family member, a friend, or an employer, you can play an important part in helping mothers who want to breast-feed."

Breast-feeding develops immunity in babies and protects them from illnesses like diarrhea, ear infection and pneumonia, according to the

report.

Some studies have linked breast-feeding to higher IQs.

Despite the reported benefits of breast-feeding, some women find that with busy schedules, social stigma, and lack of know-how, consistent breast-feeding is difficult to manage.

Although 75 percent of babies start out being breast-fed, just over 1 of 10 are breast-fed exclusively for six months.

The Surgeon General's call seeks to combat those problems by expanding and improving community programs that provide support and peer counseling, and ensuring employers and health care centers to provide similar support.

The American Academy of Pediatrics endorsed the surgeon general's campaign.

"The Call to Action provides a road map for creating a clear path for all mothers to breast-feed as long as they can and wish to do so," the children's healthcare organization said in a statement. □

## Two critical with swine flu in Hong Kong

HONG KONG — Two people were in critical condition in a Hong Kong hospital suffering from swine flu, according to health officials, a year and a half after an outbreak killed more than 80 people in the city.

The Chinese financial centre is nervous about infectious diseases, following the outbreak of the SARS virus in 2003, which killed 300 people in the city and a further 500 around the world.

Hong Kong, a city of seven million, has some of the world's most densely populated neighbourhoods, prompting a panicked response from many residents over news of a disease outbreak. Some wear surgical masks to avoid infection.

The city's health department said that the deadly influenza had claimed 83 lives since an outbreak in 2009.

Authorities appeared wary of raising the alarm over the latest cases, with a senior Hong Kong public health official telling RTHK radio there were no plans to shut schools, as the city did in 2009 which drew criticism about an official overreaction.

But there are worries the disease could spread over the next few weeks in the run up to Lunar New Year, when hundreds of millions of Chinese travel across the country to celebrate with families.

On Friday, a spokeswoman for Hong Kong's Queen Elizabeth Hospital told AFP "a 21-year-old female is in critical condition after contracting swine flu".

The woman, from mainland China, was admitted to hospital on January 11 and transferred to intensive care on Tuesday, the spokeswoman told AFP, adding that she could not confirm if the woman was infected outside the city.

Also Tuesday, a two-year-old girl was placed in the hospital's intensive care unit after she contracted the disease, the spokeswoman said, adding that she remains in critical condition.

Swine flu has killed more than 18,400 people and affected practically all parts of the world since it was uncovered in Mexico and the United States in April 2009, according to the World Health Organization. □

## WHO recommends food marketing curbs for child obesity

GENEVA — Governments must work with industry to restrict advertising of foods high in salt, sugar and dangerous fats targeted at children to tackle an epidemic of obesity and other diseases, health officials said on Friday. The call is part of a focus on combating non-communicable diseases cancer, diabetes, heart and lung disease that are a growing cause of premature death in poor countries.

Non-communicable diseases will be the focus of global health policy this year, culminating in a debate of heads of state at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September.

The World Health Organization's executive board, meeting this week, has been discussing how to make use of the leaders'



attention, and a set of new recommendations tackling marketing of harmful food to children is part of that effort.

Dr. Timothy Armstrong, who heads the WHO's efforts on promoting healthy diet and physical education, said non-communicable diseases now account for 90 percent of

premature deaths in low- and middle-income countries, where obesity is a rising problem.

Of the 42 million children worldwide aged below 5 who are overweight or obese, 35 million are in those poor countries, he told a news conference. □

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Venezuela:

# RCTV solicita volver a operar por cable

CARACAS (AP) - RCTV presentó el viernes una solicitud al gobierno para ser productor nacional audiovisual (PNA) con lo que podrán reanudar sus emisiones a través del servicio de televisión por cable, si se les concede esa autorización. El director general de las Empresas IBC, Marcel Granier, dijo en conferencia de prensa que el consultor jurídico de la empresa comenzó la gestión ante la estatal Comisión Nacional de Telecomunicaciones (Conatel).

El directivo de IBC, la corporación de la que forma parte RCTV, apeló al llamado de diálogo nacional que hizo el fin de semana el presidente Hugo Chávez y permita “el retorno de la señal de RCTV”. Al recordar las razones que llevaron al cese de transmisiones en señal abierta en mayo del 2007 y su salida del servicio de cable en enero del año pasado, Granier sostuvo

que “este tipo de régimen no acepta la crítica y pretende disfrazar su corrupción y ineficiencia y mantener oculta las violaciones a los derechos humanos”.

Dijo que RCTV consignó hace un año ante la secretaría general de la OEA una carta pidiendo que esa instancia se pronuncie sobre el caso del canal. “Aquí hemos demostrado que tenemos la voluntad, el deseo, el entusiasmo, y la capacidad empresarial para resistir mucha adversidad”, expresó Granier al reconocer que RCTV ha perdido “más de 7.000 empleados” tras su salida del aire en señal abierta y del servicio de cable y que actualmente solo cuenta con unos 500 trabajadores.

RCTV cesó sus transmisiones por televisión por suscripción el 23 de enero del 2010 después que unas 50 operadoras de cable lo retiraron de sus parrillas siguiendo instrucciones de Conatel que amenazó con sanciones sino

sacaban del aire a los canales que incumplieran la ley del sector.

La televisora fue clasificada por Conatel como productor audiovisual nacional bajo protesta de sus directivos, y obligada a pasar las cadenas presidenciales y a cumplir otras normativas de publicidad que el canal se negó a acatar. Granier admitió que RCTV ha sufrido pérdidas financieras “colosales” por su cese de emisiones, y que la confiscación de unos equipos de transmisión en el 2007 implicó pérdidas por “200 millones de dólares”.

El directivo dijo que el canal se mantiene una operación por cable que le permite salir aire en algunos países de la región, además de “varios acuerdos de venta de programación” que tiene en Venezuela que incluyen la comercialización de una telenovela.

Granier condenó la orden que Conatel dio la semana pasada al canal local Televen



**El director de la corporación propietaria de la televisora RCTV, Marcel Granier, sonríe durante una conferencia de prensa en Caracas, Venezuela, el viernes 21 de enero del 2011. (AP Foto/Ariana Cubillos)**

de suspender la telenovela colombiana “Chepe Fortuna” por un supuesto tratamiento denigrante de Venezuela, que considera busca beneficiar a Venevisión, del empresario venezolano Gustavo Cisneros y que es la televisora en señal abierta con mayor audiencia. Además de Venevisión y Televen en el país funcionan

las estaciones privadas Canal I y La Tele, y el noticiero Globovisión, que es el único medio opositor al gobierno. En mayo del 2007 RCTV cesó sus transmisiones en señal abierta luego que Chávez se negó a renovar la concesión alegando que el canal respaldó el fallido golpe de estado del 2002. □

Canciller dominicano:

## Duvalier no podrá entrar a Dominicana

SANTO DOMINGO (AP) - El canciller dominicano Carlos Morales Troncoso afirmó el viernes que el ex dictador haitiano Jean Claude Duvalier no puede de ninguna manera ingresar a territorio dominicano.

Duvalier, conocido como “Baby Doc” y quien tras 25 años de exilio en Francia regresó de forma sorpresiva a Haití el domingo, “tiene impedimento de entrada” a República Dominicana desde 2004, declaró tras participar en una ceremonia religiosa en honor de la virgen de La Altagracia, patrona de República Dominicana. El diplomático no precisó los motivos por los cuales el gobierno estableció el impedimento de entrada para el ex hombre fuerte de Haití.

El ex dictador (1971-1986) enfrenta desde su regreso a Puerto Príncipe esta semana una investigación judicial por desvío de fondos durante su gobierno. Organizaciones no gubernamentales exigen que sea procesado por violaciones a los derechos humanos. □

## Cuba suspende servicio postal con EEUU

LA HABANA (AP) - Cuba suspendió todo el correo con Estados Unidos hasta nuevo aviso, ampliando una disposición de noviembre.

“Hasta nuevo aviso no podrá seguirse aceptando ningún tipo de envío”, dijo un comunicado oficial leído el viernes por el locutor de la televisión cubana en relación a la paquetería y mensajería desde la isla a la vecina nación norteamericana.

En noviembre, la Empresa de Correos de Cuba había informado que los paquetes mayores de 400 gramos no serían aceptados debido a las medidas de seguridad tomadas por Washington para evitar actos de terrorismo en el marco de una alerta por paquetes explosivos detectados desde Yemen.

La medida estaba vigente hasta el 8 de diciembre, pero luego no se ofreció más información.

En aquella ocasión la empresa postal había tomado la medida luego de una notificación de su contraparte norteamericana sobre las necesidades de controlar los bultos de cualquier procedencia mayores de medio kilo.

El nuevo comunicado cubano indicó que las

líneas aéreas de terceros países a los cuales recurren ambas naciones para intercambiar correspondencia y paquetería, devolvieron la totalidad de envíos para Estados Unidos.

Cuba y Estados Unidos no tienen relaciones directas por lo que deben acudir a intermediarios para las comunicaciones postales.

En 2009 funcionarios cubanos y estadounidenses comenzaron una serie de negociaciones para restablecer la cooperación postal directa pero posteriormente no se informó en que punto de avance se encuentran las mismas.

Las cartas y paquetes que actualmente están en tránsito o fueron regresados serán devueltos a sus remitentes “en el menor tiempo posible”, dijo el comunicado de la televisión cubana. Precisamente la semana pasada la Casa Blanca informó que el presidente Barack Obama había dispuesto la flexibilización de las normas para que ciudadanos estadounidenses pudieran realizar viajes a Cuba patrocinados por universidades o grupos religiosos. Los estadounidenses, salvo algunas excepciones, tienen prohibido visitar la isla caribeña. □

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